



Thursday, December 4, 2008

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Vol 1 Issue 45

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Health Services Approve Major Purchase

Stephen Patrick
Editor

The Haliburton Highlands Health Services Board of Directors approved a major purchase of 70 ceiling lifts at their monthly meeting held last Friday in Minden. The ceiling lifts allow staff to transfer patients to baths, wheelchairs, or gurneys without having to actually physically lift the patients themselves.

The decision to approve the \$349,000 purchase has been debated at length by the HHHS Board over the past number of months, and it was clear at the meeting that the directors had done their homework. Janice Hardy, the HHHS's acting CEO, made a formal recommendation to the Board for the purchase of 104 of the ceiling lifts, so that each acute care and long term care room would be so equipped. The total cost of that proposal would have been close to \$500,000, but the Board, in these times of economic uncertainty, were not

Lifts cont'd... pg. 6...

Ceiling Lifts ordered for 70 Acute Care and Long Term Care Rooms

Concerns Persist About Water for Watercolours

Liz Danielsen
Staff Reporter

Detailed studies and planning continue for the Watercolours Condominium, and reservations for units are being taken on

an ongoing basis, but Haliburton Condo Concern (HCC) continues to ask questions about the impact of the development on the community. One of their major concerns is whether there will be sufficient water in the rock to sustain 150 more housing units without having an adverse affect on the wells of surrounding homes and businesses.

While it may be generally felt that there are adequate supplies of water in the area, preliminary studies completed in May of this year by Pinestone Engineering on behalf of the developer, indicate that the existing well on the former Sir Sanford Fleming College site cannot meet the water demands of the proposed development. Their recommended alternatives include utilizing the existing well in con-

junction with additional wells (a communal system) or obtaining water from Head Lake.

According to Jane Tousaw, Director of Planning for Haliburton County, the County's Official Plan states that communal wells are the preferred means of servicing multiple units in areas where full municipal sewage and water services can't be provided. Tousaw says that the need to establish a communal well system depends on the density of the development, and Watercolours is certainly a candidate for that.

Tousaw also says that approval of a communal system is heavily regulated by the Ministry of Environment (MOE). She says that any studies that come to the County in support of a subdivision are distributed to as many as 25 different agencies for comment and are peer reviewed by at least two firms

Water cont'd... pg. 8...

"The burden of jeopardy should not be placed on the community."

(Stephen Foster)

Santa Visits Minden

Baily Manser visits with Santa at the recent Minden Santa Claus Parade. SEe more photos on pgs. 2 & 9. Photo by Tim Tofflemire

Could Oxtongue Lake Bridge Replacements Devastate the Community?

Business owners and residents in Oxtongue Lake are extremely apprehensive about the impact that two years of bridge construction will have on their community. It's a tough situation. There is no doubt on anyone's part that the bridges need to be replaced, but local businesses that employ so many people in the area know they can't bear the burden of losing two tourism seasons. County Council say they'll keep a close eye on the situation, but how much pressure can they bring to

bear on the machine called MTO?

The Ministry of Transportation (MTO) are undertaking preliminary designs to replace two bridges on Highway 60 over the Oxtongue Lake Narrows and the Oxtongue River. As part of their public information process they made a presentation to County Council last week, and held a second public information session at the Oxtongue Lake Community Centre on Thursday.

Bridge cont'd... pg. 5...

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Visiting Santa at the Minden Santa Parade



McLean Rowden enjoys his visit with Santa.

Photo by Tim Tofflemire

County Looks to Host 2011 Ontario Senior Games - Winterfest

Haliburton County Council has decided to build on its solid, if unsuccessful bid to host the Sportalliance 2010 Ontario Summer Games and has taken its first step towards hosting the 2011 Ontario Senior Games - Winterfest. Council reviewed a report from Robert Smith, Director of Economic Development, Tourism and Marketing last week and officially gave him the nod to move forward with a 'letter of intent': local Volunteers Bob Nichol and Dennis Casey will once again be leading the charge.

According to Smith the 2011 Senior Games - Winterfest engages up to 1200 Ontario seniors, 55 years of age or older in 10 different sporting events. He said, "These games allow seniors to celebrate a culture of active living." The Senior Winter Games - Winterfest are hosted on odd number years, alternating with the Senior Summer Games - Actifest that are held on even numbered years.

Smith said that the process for bidding on these games is almost exactly the same as that followed during the County's efforts to host the 2010 Ontario Summer Games. According to Smith, when that bid process was complete representatives from Sportalliance held a debriefing and encouraged the County to submit an application for the 2011 Senior Games - Winterfest.



Ontario Games

The letter of intent, which was due on November 28th, simply indicates the County's desire to be considered as a candidate for the bid submission process. The letter touts the County's history of building strong partnerships and offers to bring a unique perspective to this major provincial event. It also emphasized that the community has one of the highest percentages of seniors in Ontario and that they are active in many sport disciplines.

After receiving the letters of intent, Sportalliance host a 'potential bidders' meeting to give interested communities an opportunity to learn more about the process. Bidders then have until January 30th to prepare a detailed submission. Smith advised County Council that, "The letter of intent simply gets us into the race with no long term or financial commitment other than some mileage costs."

A Site Review Committee from Sportalliance will evaluate submissions, and after creating a short list of communities will conduct site visitations. These site visits allow an opportunity to look at strengths and weaknesses in the community and a brief opportunity follows to respond to any unanswered questions or concerns.

Nichol and Casey, whom the County has honoured for their terrific job preparing the submission and working on the site visit for the 2010 Summer Games, have already been working on getting background information about the process and Casey has volunteered to prepare the documentation essential to a formal bid submission. Smith described them as an excellent pair to take charge of the project. He said, "Casey comes out of the gate like a racehorse with Nichol taking a more steadied approach, providing the perfect balance for each other."

In response to questions about overall cost, Smith said that the County's share would be less than what was experienced for their previous application, but there would be funding sought if they decided to proceed with the formal bid submission.

Dysart Reeve Murray Fearrey was concerned about committing money for 2011, something that would normally be beyond their power. However, as the closing date for the bid submission is January of 2009, Council agreed to proceed. ■

Dysart Reeve Murray Fearrey was concerned about committing money for 2011, something that would normally be beyond their power. However, as the closing date for the bid submission is January of 2009, Council agreed to proceed. ■



What are these people doing?



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THURSDAY

Breezy with snow showers and flurries

▲ -2° ▼ -10°

FRIDAY

Colder with a few flurries

▲ -4° ▼ -16°

SATURDAY

Cloudy with light snow likely

▲ -4° ▼ -9°

SUNDAY

Morning flurries, then decreasing clouds

▲ -4° ▼ -9°

MONDAY

Chance of P.M. light snow

▲ -4° ▼ -10°

TUESDAY

Cloudy with light snow likely

▲ -6° ▼ -11°

WEDNESDAY

Cloudy with light snow likely

▲ -2° ▼ -9°

AROUND THE REGION: Not much sunshine will be seen the next week or so. Snow showers and flurries will be experienced on Thursday with highs in the single digits below zero. The chilly weather will continue through the weekend with flurries possible on Friday and a better chance of snow on Saturday. The snow will end Sunday morning with some sun possible in the afternoon.

Your Unofficial Lotto Numbers

649

Nov. 29, 2008

09 12 16 26 30 37

Encore 5507710

Bonus Number 27

SUPER 7

Nov. 28, 2008

06 09 16 17 27 29 38

Encore 8135215

Bonus Number 12

Next Jackpot is \$2,500,000

These are all unofficial numbers. To confirm a win please visit www.olg.ca or visit a local authorized OLG dealer.

REGIONAL CITIES							
City	Today	Friday	Saturday	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday
	Hi/Lo/Otk	Hi/Lo/Otk	Hi/Lo/Otk	Hi/Lo/Otk	Hi/Lo/Otk	Hi/Lo/Otk	Hi/Lo/Otk
Bancroft	-3/-10/sn	-4/-16/sf	-4/-9/sn	-4/-9/sf	-4/-10/sf	-6/-11/sn	-2/-9/sn
Barrie	-2/-9/sn	-4/-15/sf	-3/-8/sn	-3/-8/sf	-4/-9/sf	-5/-11/sn	-2/-9/sn
Dorset	-3/-10/sn	-4/-16/sf	-4/-9/sn	-4/-9/sf	-4/-10/sf	-6/-11/sn	-2/-9/sn
Haliburton	-2/-10/sn	-4/-16/sf	-4/-9/sn	-4/-9/sf	-4/-10/sf	-6/-11/sn	-2/-9/sn
Huntsville	-3/-10/sn	-4/-16/sf	-4/-9/sn	-4/-9/sf	-4/-10/sf	-6/-11/sn	-2/-9/sn
Kingston	-1/-9/sn	-4/-14/sf	-3/-8/sn	-2/-8/sf	-3/-9/sf	-4/-10/sn	-1/-8/sn
Lindsay	-2/-9/sn	-4/-15/sf	-3/-8/sn	-3/-8/sf	-4/-9/sf	-5/-11/sn	-2/-9/sn
Minden	-2/-10/sn	-4/-16/sf	-4/-9/sn	-4/-9/sf	-4/-10/sf	-6/-11/sn	-2/-9/sn
Oshawa	-1/-8/sn	-4/-14/sf	-3/-8/sn	-2/-7/sf	-3/-9/sf	-4/-9/sn	-1/-8/sn
Ottawa	0/-7/sn	-4/-13/sf	-3/-10/sf	-3/-9/sf	-4/-10/pc	-5/-11/sn	-1/-9/sf
Toronto	-1/-8/sn	-3/-13/sf	-2/-7/sf	-2/-7/sf	-3/-8/sf	-4/-9/sn	0/-7/sn

NATIONAL CITIES							
City	Today	Friday	Saturday	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday
	Hi/Lo/Otk	Hi/Lo/Otk	Hi/Lo/Otk	Hi/Lo/Otk	Hi/Lo/Otk	Hi/Lo/Otk	Hi/Lo/Otk
Calgary	-7/-1/su	6/-4/cl	8/-4/sh	2/-5/sf	0/-6/sf	0/-7/mx	-1/-9/sn
Edmonton	-4/-1/cl	0/-7/cl	-2/-10/sn	0/-9/sf	-5/-9/sn	-6/-11/sf	-6/-13/sn
Fredericton	4/-2/mx	-1/-11/sf	-1/-9/pc	-1/-8/cl	-3/-7/sf	-2/-8/sn	0/-7/sf
Halifax	8/1/pc	2/-6/pc	0/-1/cl	4/-2/sf	4/-2/sn	4/0/sh	3/-1/cl
Montreal	1/-6/sn	-3/-14/sf	-2/-9/sf	-3/-8/sn	-4/-9/su	-4/-10/sn	-1/-8/sf
Regina	-6/-11/pc	-4/-11/sf	-8/-12/cl	-3/-14/sn	-5/-11/cl	-4/-11/sn	-2/-11/sn
St. John's	7/2/pc	8/-2/mx	4/4/mx	8/2/mx	8/4/ra	7/4/cl	5/1/sh
Saskatoon	-7/-16/pc	-4/-12/sf	-7/-12/cl	1/-9/sf	-7/-8/cl	-7/-12/sn	-6/-13/sn
Vancouver	9/2/pc	9/3/sh	10/4/ra	9/6/sh	9/6/ra	13/7/ra	14/8/ra
Whitehorse	-4/-11/sf	-1/-7/cl	-4/-7/sf	-5/-6/sn	-6/-6/sf	-7/-10/sn	-6/-11/sn
Winnipeg	-12/-21/sf	-7/-16/sn	-13/-16/cl	-10/-18/sf	-8/-15/sf	-8/-15/sn	-7/-17/sn

AREA ALMANAC				SUN & MOON	
Last seven days	High	Low	Prec.	Sunrise/set	Moonrise/set
Monday 12/1	1°C	-2°C	0.0 mm	Thu. 7:36 a.m./4:33 p.m.	12:04 p.m./11:09 p.m.
Sunday 11/30	2°C	-10°C	0.3 mm	Fri. 7:37 a.m./4:33 p.m.	12:23 p.m./none
Saturday 11/29	0°C	-11°C	0.0 mm	Sat. 7:38 a.m./4:32 p.m.	12:42 p.m./12:17 a.m.
Friday 11/28	1°C	-4°C	0.0 mm	Sun. 7:39 a.m./4:32 p.m.	1:02 p.m./1:27 a.m.
Thursday 11/27	0°C	-5°C	0.3 mm	Mon. 7:40 a.m./4:32 p.m.	1:25 p.m./2:40 a.m.
Wednesday 11/26	-1°C	-4°C	0.0 mm	Tues. 7:41 a.m./4:32 p.m.	1:53 p.m./3:58 a.m.
Tuesday 11/25	1°C	-1°C	1.3 mm	Wed. 7:42 a.m./4:32 p.m.	2:28 p.m./5:20 a.m.

Readings from Haliburton/Stanhope Airport www.stanhopeairport.com

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First	Full	Last	New
Dec. 5	Dec. 12	Dec. 19	Dec. 27

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County Voice



Letter of the Week

"No one needs to drive or walk the shores of Dark Lake in this particular area."

I support the comments placed in our local paper by both Dennis Weymouth and Roberta Walsh concerning the Dark Lake road issue.

Although I have no financial interest in the properties at issue, I do have an invested interest in what is right and what is wrong.

Possibly a little back history may still shed a few rays of light. I wish to focus first on the Elephant Lake sector where Dennis and Doris Weymouth owned and operated Silver Springs Cottages.

Prior to this period of time, on approaching Elephant Lake from Harcourt, and elderly person by the name of Simon Sipples lived in a log cabin. He owned 12 wooden rowboats which he rented to fishermen for \$1.00 a day. The road hugged the water and enriched his livelihood. Then the Schickler family purchased the property and founded the present Elephant Lake Lodge, and cottages. The road that once enhanced a business now proved to become a hazard to the safety of tourist's families.

The Lodge owners approached Dysart Council with their safety concerns. They received co-operation and a new road was constructed behind the Lodge where it is today. The legal process took place and the former road became a part of the Lodge property providing great safety and enhanced assessment value.

Now to Silver Springs and the Weymouths. I personally handled the real estate transaction at the time of purchase. The road in front between the cottages and the beach was a big factor of concern. As the lumber industry in the area expanded, so did the heavy truck traffic. A call for better roads reached Dysart Council who responded by engaging an engineering firm to design the Silver Springs hill to slip erosion and provide a highway surface. To protect their interests and client safety, the Weymouths entered a court appeal to create a review. The court date was so delayed that the construction was actually completed prior. I personally testified before the judge in the Toronto Court House in support of the Weymouths endeavour. The firms engineer was also present.

I addressed the judge and commended the engineering firm on the fine cosmetic job they had achieved. However, I testified that a former Cheddar trail had become like Highway 115, thus increasing speed, traffic volume and produced a safety hazard to the guests at Silver Springs.

Why have I gone to this extent to explain a very comparable situation on Dark Lake? The answer is I have been there. I have seen the results of spending endless money on similar ventures. No one needs to drive or walk the shores of Dark Lake in this particular area. A safe and maintained road has been provided. The 911 services would never be needed to pass on this short stretch. Many area lakes in Highland East provide ample space for people to walk, swim, and muse on without impairing the safety and privacy of much needed vacationers.

Declare the road as surplus land. Tender the necessary legal documents and offer for sale the frontage to its residents as you, as a council, are constantly doing in numerous lakes in Highlands East. Do the sensible thing and close the books.

I do not patronize the closing remarks of Dennis, but when you consider that the members of the Dysart Council et al during the period of the Elephant Lake Lodge road exchange had in most or all cases no greater than a grade education, it does make one wonder what happened to higher education.

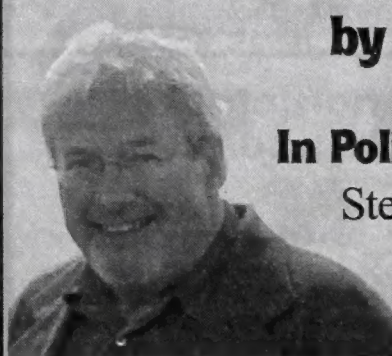
Thank you for your time.
Kenneth Sanderson

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EDITORIAL VIEWPOINT

by Stephen Patrick

In Politics, a Week is a Lifetime Stephen Harper Does Joe Clark — Big Time



The House of Commons in Ottawa has seats for 306 Members of Parliament. In October's election Prime Minister Stephen Harper's Conservatives won 143 of those seats. The three Opposition Parties hold the remaining 163 seats. As most Grade Five students would be able to tell you, in either official language, 143 is less than half of 306. Half of 306 would be ... get the calculator ... 153. So a majority of seats would be, like, 154. The question is, how did Joe Clark become Prime Minister again, and how did all his calculators end up in his luggage?

And these are the guys supposedly renowned for their financial, number-crunching expertise? Solid, sensible business people, devoted to the sober business of fiscal responsibility? Reportedly, one of Harper's favourite party games is ridiculing then Prime Minister Joe Clark's inability in 1979 to understand that he risked losing a money vote in the Commons because he didn't have a majority. "Couldn't he count?" Harper chortles as he tells the story of the poor Red Tory incompetent.

Well, yes, Mr. Harper can count. What he couldn't understand is that when, as one commentator put it, you lob a grenade into your opponents' underpants, you might just get a reaction. It's hard to imagine that just a week ago, in this space, we were discussing Haliburton MP Barry Devolin's Deputy Speaker appointment as a sign of a more tolerant, respectful House of Commons. Mr. Devolin ran his campaign for Speaker on the need for a more civil political culture. For the first week of the new government this tone seemed to be maintained. The Prime Minister had issued clear signals that his response to the perceived economic crisis was going to be all practical: no easy ideologically inspired rhetoric, a new openness to the possibility of deficit financing, a willingness to listen to ideas that didn't carry the Fraser Institute's stamp of approval.

And then, wham, slam, here comes the grenade. Finance Minister Jim Flaherty and the Prime Minister elected to use their economic update to slip through three initiatives with virtually no link to the economic crisis, but with huge links to right-wing ideology and posturing. In other words, use a legitimate crisis as an excuse to settle political scores, and in the meantime, financially cripple your opponents. This is reminiscent of the Ontario Conservative government under Mike Harris during the 1990s, driven by partisan ideology and a deep desire to punish political opponents. The difference? Mr. Harris had majorities and could do more or less as he wished.

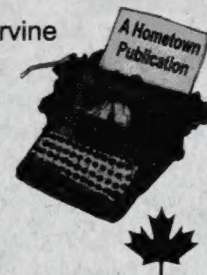
My own entirely unscientific straw poll of Haliburton voters reveals a strong desire for our Ottawa politicians to figure a way out of this crisis that doesn't involve another election. But calling the Opposition Parties establishment of a Coalition to replace the Conservatives some kind of 'Coup' is deeply misleading. The Opposition has more seats and a much greater percentage of the popular vote. The Conservatives didn't get a majority and failed to understand the political implications. Parliament isn't some kind of campfire sing-song: it's a cut-throat political arena designed for the judicious wielding of power. Surely we can expect a Prime Minister to understand those realities and act accordingly.

"It Pays to Shop Local"

The Voice last week launched a very successful "It Pays to Shop Local - Christmas Bucks Campaign" supported by Haliburton County merchants. This week even more stores have signed up. So now you not only can support your community and your families by staying here to shop, you can even make money while you're doing it! Just three weeks to Christmas, but it's over five months to May 24 - and our retailers need every penny to get there from here. So shop till you drop - locally! ■

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Oxtongue Bridge

"We'll be keeping a close eye on the situation."
(Warden Eleanor Harrison)

Liz Daniels
Staff Reporter

... from pg. 1

the wayside. They are all vibrant healthy tourism based businesses in a small community that survives because of tourism.

It's all we have."

Schultz said, "It's not just our businesses; it's our homes. I can't go through two years with no income, nor can the family members that I employ." The Algonquin Inn is their home and he, along with the other business owners, is very concerned about losing not only their business but their homes as well if forced into bankruptcy as a result of the project.

"The irony is that we're surviving the trials and tribulations of the marketplace but are now at risk of being torpedoed and sunk by our own provincial government and MTO. Our own taxes will end up hurting us and that's a hard

has been in touch with MP Barry Devolin, MPP Laurie Scott and five other MPP's, all of whom have written letters to the Minister of MTO saying that the situation must be dealt with before the project commences.

Letters from several municipal Councils, the Canadian Federation of Independent Business, Haliburton Tourism and a number of tourism and accommodation associations have all written to the Minister echoing the same sentiments that the concerns of the community need to be addressed before the project gets underway, not just for industry but for the employment it brings to the community.

MTO's response? According to Schultz common sense does not prevail and they're saying no; they have a policy and they're sticking to it.

Schultz did have one solution to offer. MTO could rent resort facilities to house their people. He said, "We're isolated and they will have to bring in construction crews and house and feed them. They'll need storage space, so why not rent space from these people? If they're spending millions of dollars they could factor rental space and compensation into the budget and would also have the added benefit of using our facilities."

Another concern is the single lane detours being suggested, and the community are seeking two lane detours.

Schultz said, "They have no idea how many people travel through here to see the fall colours alone. We have trouble trying to cross the road at times. Last fall there were 780 coaches full of people going to the park to see the fall colours, which are promoted worldwide by the park. Imagine putting a single lane detour in the midst of that. It will be a very black eye on the park, and they are very concerned about it."

Schultz said that the bottom line is that they have 10 healthy businesses in their tiny resort community. "We're healthy and surviving right now. We should do everything that we can to ensure continued employment in Haliburton and our own provincial government is going to torpedo us." ■



Oxtongue Ratepayers Assoc. President, Gary Schultz

pill to swallow."

Schultz spoke about unresolved construction issues. He said there are two blind curves right at the threshold to the bridge at the narrows. He voiced frustration with the fact that MTO seem to be prepared to put in a multi-million dollar bridge but not address blind curves. According to Schultz the consultants passed responsibility off to another department, saying that there was no obligation on their part.

"It's our position that if there is going to be a major disruption, why not make the full repairs that are required?"

Schultz did say that the consultants have promised that things will be business as usual and that they will do everything possible to ensure that guests have access to his property. He said they feel their obligation is finished at that point; but Schultz has spoken with Muskoka Tourism who suggested that it would be impossible to remain open during a major civic project less than 50 feet away from a bedroom that is supposed to be surrounded by a tranquil atmosphere. Instead, Schultz says it will look like a war zone with tractor trailers and earth moving equipment, barges in the water with drilling equipment on them, porta-johns and job shacks."

Schultz spoke about MTO's policy that during a construction project people are supposed to conduct business as usual; once the project is completed and only then, should they feel that they have suffered or incurred a business downturn as a result of the project and can prove it, a claim can be submitted to MTO for consideration."

But it's obviously not that simple. According to Schultz, Algonquin Outfitters suffered through the same situation in 1964 during the last bridge replacement. MTO physically moved the store, but when they submitted a claim it took 20 years in the courts to achieve a settlement and it was smaller than the legal fees which the judge made MTO pay.

"We know we need the bridge; it's falling in the lake. But as a community we also need to survive the process."

The Ratepayers Association

Peter Wowk, the Senior Project Manager from URS Canada Inc., retained to complete the preliminary designs for both bridges and detailed design for the Oxtongue River Bridge, outlined the preferred alternatives for the bridges determined after a first round of meetings with the community. Wowk told County Council that, as well as an environmental study being conducted, work on the Oxtongue Narrows Bridge would remain at the preliminary design stage. The bridge over the Oxtongue River, however, will advance to a detailed study which includes preparation of a contract package.

Wowk advised County Council that his company had met with the Oxtongue Lake Ratepayers Association to get input and concerns, some of which would be addressed, including a sidewalk on the narrows structure, improved site lines and reduced speed limits through the community from 80 kilometres to 60 kilometres.

Warden Eleanor Harrison told firm representatives, "You have to understand that this is a commercial strip with many resorts that have very valid concerns." Harrison spoke about the community's concerns about poor site lines at the narrows bridge, but the company claimed no responsibility for that.

Harrison said, "Oxtongue has been trying to get through to MTO the extent of their concerns and the long term effect on their businesses and they can't seem to get any answers. I'm very concerned myself that once this goes out to tender it will be too late." Harrison acknowledged the need to replace the bridges, but also told Wowk that the community would be seeking confirmation that their businesses would be impacted as little as possible and that there would be compensation for any loss of business.

When Harrison voiced concerns about the fact that construction would be ongoing for more than one season, Wowk confirmed that it would definitely take two seasons, given restrictions working on the water. He also confirmed that time lines would be looked at carefully during the detailed design stage.

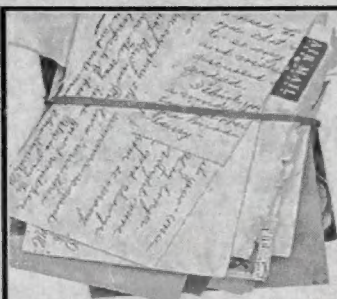
Harrison said, "If we get asked for help at this level, we'll try to ensure some form of compensation is provided to them. That is what this table will be most interested in and our Economic Development & Tourism Department will be keeping a close eye on the situation."

Despite assurances that MTO representatives are addressing area concerns, Gary Schultz doesn't agree. Schultz is the President of the Oxtongue Ratepayers Association and the owner of the Algonquin Inn and he said, "The main issues of the community are still not being dealt with. They are just going through the motions of a government routine that is required with zero consideration for us."

"To survive a loss of income for one summer is hard enough, but to ask tourism businesses to go through two consecutive summers is asking us to close the doors and throw away the keys," he said.

Schultz said, "We are a small unique environment here; it's a little lake only three miles long, but we are the threshold to Algonquin Park. The vast majority of visitors come through Oxtongue Lake. We have 10 resorts, the majority of which are year round operations catering to the public in a unique area. I don't believe there is any other lake that can sustain 10 resorts."

Schultz said that his inn opened in 1945 and the others had been in place since the 1950's. "These are generational businesses that have survived all the twists and turns of the economy, while others have fallen by



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Attention Chamber Members

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Taoist Tai Chi Members in the Spirit of Giving Group Makes \$500 Donation to HHHSF's Christmas Campaign



From left to right: Ginny Hopkins, Dale Walker, Peter Oyler and Amy Hogg with Taoist Tai Chi Society members striking a pose behind them.

Mark Arike
Staff Reporter

Members of the Taoist Tai Chi Society of Peterborough, which includes Haliburton County members, met with Dale Walker, Executive Director of the Haliburton Highlands Health Services Foundation (HHHSF), and Chairman Peter Oyler at the Minden Hospital

on Tuesday for a special presentation.

The group chose to donate \$500 to the HHHSF that they raised through garage sales and donations collected from their members.

The funds will go into the foundation's Christmas campaign, which will ultimately go into the Reach for Future campaign. The goal of this year's Christmas campaign is to raise \$95,000 that will go towards necessary hospital equipment such as Picture Archiving Communication Systems (PACS). The campaign began in mid-November and will continue until the end of January.

Since the Christmas campaign started, the HHHSF has partnered with Canoe FM to provide weekly updates to listeners on the fund-raising progress.

For more information or to contribute to the campaign, contact the HHHSF at 705 457-1580 or 705 286-1580. ■

Hospital Lifts cont'd...

...from pg. 1

prepared to support what one director called "the Cadillac solution".

In her presentation, Ms. Hardy outlined the many benefits the ceiling lifts offer in patient comfort and safety, as well as documenting some of the resulting significant savings in staff time, injuries and accompanying Worker's Compensation liabilities. In fact, she maintained that the lifts would likely pay for themselves over a period of some seven years. The problem, a not unusual one for so many Health Care issues, is where is the money going to come from? The HHHS, like its counterparts across the province, faces a legislative decree that forbids running a deficit. Yet in order to fulfill its legislated mandate, it is often forced into a deficit position. In the first few months of the New Year the Board may also have to deal with the implementation of the Meditech system of integrated data access across the province. The government has suggested that local health services organization pull up to two percent of their operating budget and devote it to the Meditech upgrade, which would only increase the cash flow problems. Some Board members wondered whether or not the projected Meditech demands should mean saying no to the lifts. But Ms. Hardy suggested that this was not an either-or decision.

There was another consideration that clearly influenced the Board's decision to go ahead with the purchase. The supplier was willing to stand by the purchase price, even though the Canadian dollar had decreased significantly in value since the quote was made: but the deadline for a Board decision was November 30th, 2008. So the pressure was on.

So where's the money going to come from? Finance Committee Chair Warren Arseneau has suggested a bank loan to cover the costs, which would add \$20,000 in interest to the project. The Board was less than sanguine about that suggestion, and at that point, Board Chair Marg Risk asked Haliburton Highlands Health Services Foundation (HHHSF) Chair Peter Oyler and Executive Director Dale Walker for their comments about the chances of funding the purchase. With some frustration, Oyler pointed out that the HHHSF needed a lot more information in order to sell the proposal to the public: "We've got to go to the public and persuade them it's needed. And at the moment, we don't have enough information to make that sale. We're committed to helping to fund it, but we need a decision so we can get to work." Oyler also pointed out that he would find it difficult as well if after helping to raise the money for the lifts, the HHHSF was asked to go back to the public immediately for help with Meditech. Funding for the lifts was part of the HHHSF's Reach for the Future \$2.5 million campaign launched in June, 2007. But the priority for that campaign was the purchase of the PACS (Picture Archiving and Communication System), for which \$731,000 was pledged. The HHHSF still needs to raise around \$140,000 for PACS, which they hope to accomplish with their Christmas campaign this year. But there are no guarantees, and the economic picture continues to be bleak.

The message to the Board from the Foundation was yes, we're committed, and yes, we'll do our best, but more information and time lines would certainly be appreciated. In the meantime, the lifts are on their way and will be installed as soon as possible. ■

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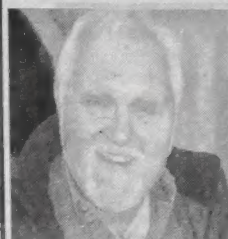
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Concerns Persist About Water for Watercolours

... from pg. 1

on behalf of the County to ensure that the results of the study are within reason. Once this preliminary work is completed, MOE steps in with a new set of very detailed criteria to meet before their approval is given.

One of the primary MOE requirements is that the communal system has no significant impact on the yield and water quality of surrounding wells. According to MOE guidelines, when looking at the impacts of a communal well system, the hydro geological study typically evaluates the wells within a 500 metre radius of the property. (See the red portion of the map to the right. This is the area of Haliburton Village which falls within the 500m radius of the development property.)

Tousaw did say that provincial policy statements apply more rigorously to urban centres. "Our development is often around the lakes and some communities across Ontario argue that the lake areas are actually settlement areas, while others don't because there is no commercial component. The Province considers a settlement area to be wherever there is an actual village, so it often depends how an area is viewed, how strictly the province will want to apply the rules."

Under the Ontario Water Resources Act, a Permit to Take Water (PTTW) is almost always required from MOE for any water system that will draw more than 50,000 litres a day from either a groundwater or surface water source. According to HCC, members of the development team have already indicated that they intend to get water from the ground.

Should the developer proceed with plans to get water from a cluster of wells, those wells will be drilled into dense fractured granite rock. According to hydrogeologist David Ketcheson, the science of water movement through rock is much more complex than through porous material such as moraine. Recent research conducted at Queen's University suggests that determining ground water flow through fractured media remains more conceptual than realistic. Again based on Queen's research, Ketcheson says, "Heavily instrumented research sites can only predict movement up to 50 metres with any degree of accuracy using the most sophisticated tracking procedures."

The difficulty in finding water-bearing fractures in rock is clearly demonstrated by the fact that the depth of wells in the community vary considerably. Within a two block radius, there are examples of wells drilled to depths that range between 60 and 400 feet.

When asked by HCC if the impact could be greater on wells further away from the development site than those close at hand, given that the water is drawn from different fractures, Ketcheson agreed that, conceptually, that could be the case. This would make the selection of a key set of monitoring wells over the impact field all the more critical.



Protection for neighbouring wells is a very high priority for HCC. According to HCC member Alison Mack, while the Municipality would hold a security from the developer to mitigate any problems that arise for surrounding properties, that security would only be held for a period of two years after construction. After that time, the municipality would return the security to the developer. Adjacent property owners would then have to pursue damages on their own if they traced problems with their wells back to the communal system.

Mack, who submitted the original appeal of the Municipality's zoning approval, said, "In a worst case scenario, if during a drought year the condo's well went dry and monies held in a reserve fund were not sufficient to fix the condo's water problems, then the MOE may hold the municipality responsible to remediate the problem. In that scenario, the neighbours could be in double jeopardy because not only might they be responsible for fixing their own water problems, but as ratepayers, they could also have to pay to fix the condo's water problem."

"While a responsibility agreement between the municipality and the condo corporation may ease the burden on the taxpayers, it might not relieve the financial burden for the neighbouring well owners," Mack maintains that drawing water from Head Lake is the solution.

Ketcheson observed that all private well owners should maintain good records on their respective well operations. Records could include such things as the seasonal depth of the water in the well, the routine maintenance performed on the well, the results of any licensed well inspections or periodic water quality results. These pieces of information could be invaluable when assessing well interference problems.

When faced with the two options, one to draw subsurface water from wells and the other to draw water from Head Lake, there are problems associated with each. Ensuring an adequate source from fractured rock could be problematic. On the other hand, drawing water from Head Lake could require additional approvals and the developer could be faced with the

automatic assumption of and treatment for contamination. Should the water be drawn from Head Lake, a distribution piping system would require a permit from the Municipality, approval from both the Department of Fisheries and Oceans and the Canadian Coast Guard and there would likely be greater cost involved.

Stephen Foster, also of HCC said, "The burden of jeopardy should not be placed on the community. The difference between the estimated cost of the project (quoted to be \$20 million) and the revenue from the sale of the condo units (which may be in excess of \$41 million) could allow for the extra cost of drawing water from the lake. Using lake water should eliminate all concerns about the negative impact the development could have on wells in the community."

As stated above, how to bring the water source to potable standards varies whether it is received from the lake or through a well. Based on conversations with Ketcheson, HCC say that it is a false assumption to think getting water from the rock means that it has not been impacted by surface water. According to Foster, it is well within the realm of possibility that water may migrate from the lake into rock fissures. If a 200 foot well is drilled, there is the distinct possibility that some water has seeped back through the cracks and crevices into that well.

Foster says it is also a false assumption that just because the water is coming from the ground you will not have to use a higher level of treatment. "If water drawn from rock matches the chemical signature of what is in the lake, you are likely faced with lake water infiltration and the need for a more rigorous treatment, so why not draw from the lake in the first place?"

However, even if they draw water from the lake, extensive blasting may be required to install a distribution line underground, running from the lake to the building. "It's easy to say why not just draw from the lake, but there may be other unknown considerations that come into play as a result of drilling and blasting, which might diminish the desirability of having a distribution line going to the lake," said Foster.

For HCC, the bottom line is that the 'Precautionary Principle' should apply when it comes to this very precious resource. Given that the science of water flowing through rock is still a work in progress, it is their hope that no action will be taken or changes made unless the developer and the Municipality know exactly what the long term impacts of a communal well will be on other local water resources."

Both Reeve Murray Fearrey of Dysart et al and Hal Kersey, representing the Watercolours development team have suggested that the questions being posed by HCC are at the very least premature. It is their argument that as part of the zoning approval for the condominium development (given in July '08) there are a number of holding provisions that will protect the interests of residents. The Municipality requires that numerous impact studies be conducted, including a hydro geological study to investigate the source and movement of groundwater in the affected area and the impact surface water may have on that source.

The Ontario Municipal Board hearing to consider these concerns will be held January 8th at 11:00 a.m. in the Dysart Council Chamber and it is open to the public. The arguments made to the OMB will be whether the zoning by-law changes passed by Council in July conform to various planning requirements. OMB rulings are normally released six to eight weeks after a hearing.

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Above Photo by Tim Tofflemire



Santa Comes to Minden – along with 45 Floats

Minden's Santa Claus Parade was Sponsored by the Township of Minden Hills and organized by Community Services Director Rick Cox. Forty-five floats took over a half hour to go down the main streets. There were free games, hot chocolate, hot dogs, books, crafts, and Santa photos for the kids at the Community Centre after the parade. Next year's 2009 sesquicentennial parade is already in the planning stages and should be the biggest and best ever. ■

Photos By:
Lyn Winans



Man Seriously Injured In Fall From Tree Stand

by George Farrell

On October 26th Dwayne Angiers 41, was up in a tree stand, well above the ground. Dwayne is an avid hunter and loves to bow hunt. A friend had just left, and Mr. Angiers was descending the ladder alone, at about 5:00 pm, when he missed his footing and fell heavily, 25 feet to the ground.

Dwayne and wife Christy Angiers live on One Mile Drive, near Brady's Lake, off highway 118. It was Christy Angiers who eventually found her husband. "I got home late from work at Highland Crest in Minden. It was about 7:45, and it was dark outside and dark in the house. I thought Dwayne was asleep in the bedroom, but he wasn't. I thought he was over at the neighbours, so I drove over there."

The Angiers house is off the grid, and very often Christy's cell phone does not get good reception at the house. She also thought that she might see Dwayne walking home along the road. "But he wasn't at the neighbours, and though I didn't know it at the time, I drove right past Dwayne. The tree stand was near the driveway of my neighbours house, and I drove by him again coming back home. The dogs were acting strange, as if they knew something, so I decided to go to the neighbours again and ask when they'd last seen him. They said they'd last seen him around 3:30. When driving back home for the second time, out of the corner of my eye I saw a light. It turned out to be the light from Dwayne's

watch -- the light that lets you see the time in the dark. He'd seen me coming and pressed the button. It's incredible that I even saw it.

"I found him lying on the ground and he managed to tell me that he couldn't move. My neighbour Carter Austen called the ambulance right away. I'm sure they came as fast as they could. We're a long way out and it seemed like an eternity. When they did arrive they were terrific. As soon as they got there they assessed him. He was coherent. They put him in a brace and on a board. He was in excruciating pain, and he couldn't feel his legs. They took him to Minden Hospital, but they couldn't airlift him because of rain and lightning between Minden and Toronto, so they took him by ambulance to St. Michael's Hospital in the city."

Dwayne Angiers has subsequently been diagnosed with a paralysis from the chest down, and was in Intensive Care until this past week. He has trouble breathing and he's been on a respirator. He's now breathing without the respirator, which is a good sign. He's had two surgeries; one to insert a metal rod, which supports the spinal cord and a second surgery was needed to adjust some of the screws in the rod.

Doctors won't know the full extent of the injury or the amount of recovery until the swelling goes down, which can take up to 18 months with an injury of this severity. They do expect some permanent paralysis, but cannot predict the extent.

Mr Angiers, who's originally from the Norland area, works in construction. At the time of the accident Dwayne was em-

ployed on the Beaver Theatre renovation project working for Luke Contracting. Dwayne and Christy have been married for 2 years. The couple have no children, but Mr. Angiers does have children from a previous relationship; Ashleigh 16, and Curtis 14, who live with their mother in Niagara Falls.

"The good news is that he has no head trauma. His memory is good and he can use the alphabet board to communicate long sentences," said Christy Angiers. He won't be able to talk properly for a while."

Christy is holding up remarkably well, but "I'm on auto pilot, taking one day at a time, and doing whatever I can do for him, which isn't too much right now; but I'm just being there for him."

Christy has had to take a stress-leave from her job, but she's received great support from her co-workers who have raised some money to cover the expenses incurred from her living in Toronto. Even though she stays with relatives in Mississauga, she still has to drive into Toronto on a regular basis and pay for parking and eating out, as well as for the occasional overnight stay at a hotel.

Christie Angier's parents, Bonny and Lloyd Ackerblade, are making arrangements for a Valentines Benefit Dance, to be held in the Minden Arena on Friday 13th or Saturday 14th of February. Details are still to be finalized, but tickets will be shortly available at the Haliburton Highlands Copy Centre (formerly Golden Stationers), and other locations. A group calling themselves Friends of Dwayne is also busy organizing ways in which they can help the couple. Funds will be needed to convert the Angiers house to an accessible home, because in all likelihood Dwayne Angiers will have some form of permanent disability. More information on how you can help Dwayne and Christy will be available as details are finalized. ■



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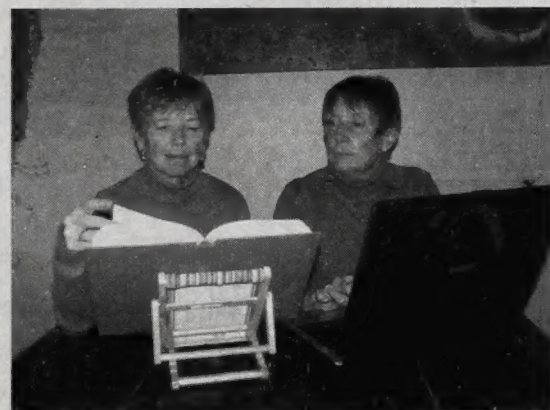
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The Minden Hills Library Committee Book Chair Versatile Book Holder Makes a Great Gift



The expansion of the Minden Hills Library will cost in the vicinity of \$1.25 million. Approximately \$900,000 of that will go towards the construction of the new wing. Of course once construction is finished the library will have to be furnished. The Minden Hills Library Committee is responsible for raising in the neighborhood of \$250,000 for furnishings, which will include items such as shelves, chairs, tables, and computers, and they are appealing to the community for support.

"Our ultimate goal is to raise \$50,000 in this first phase, said committee spokesperson Elly Malcomson." To date the first phase of the campaign has included a donor recognition quilt where \$50 gets the donor his or her name on the quilt, change for change book boxes where loose change can be donated into a container shaped like a book, and of course regular donations to the committee, with donations over \$20 being tax deductible. "Book chairs are the latest part of the campaign, and are available now."

A book chair is just what it suggests. It's a small chair that a book sits on, and it's a very useful tool that fulfills several needs. For instance, what do you do when you're word processing and you have a lot of text to transfer from a notebook to your pc or laptop? It's difficult to keep bending your neck all the time to read the pages if the book is lying flat. It's much easier for the notebook to be standing upright next to your monitor, where you merely need to move your eyes to get all the required information at a glance. People with chronic neck and shoulder disabilities find the book chair an excellent way to read without pain.

"One of our committee members saw them in a bookstore and thought they'd be a great fund-raiser," said Elly. "We got in touch with the wholesaler/distributor and placed an initial order of 50. "It's a book stand that's made from hand finished wood and canvas, and it looks like a mini' beach chair. The chairs come in vivid colours, and they're about 9 by 7 inches. They fold up flat when not in use, and they're adjustable to hold books of different thicknesses and at different angles."

Other uses for the book chair include: a music stand, a cook book holder, book display, photos display, picture stand, reading on a plane or beach....the list goes on. It's an excellent gift for any season. If you want to shop locally and would like to contribute to the furnishings in the new library, the book chair can be purchased for \$20. Supplies are limited, so if you want one in time for Christmas, get yours soon, otherwise they can be ordered later.

You can purchase the book chair from individual members of the Minden Hills Library Committee, from Haliburton Highlands Copy Centre (formerly Golden Stationers) 108 Bobcaygeon Rd, or from the library, which is located at 176 Bobcaygeon Rd. For more information call Elly Malcomson (705) 489 1759. ■

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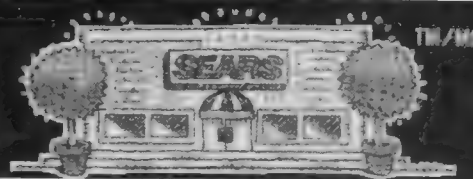
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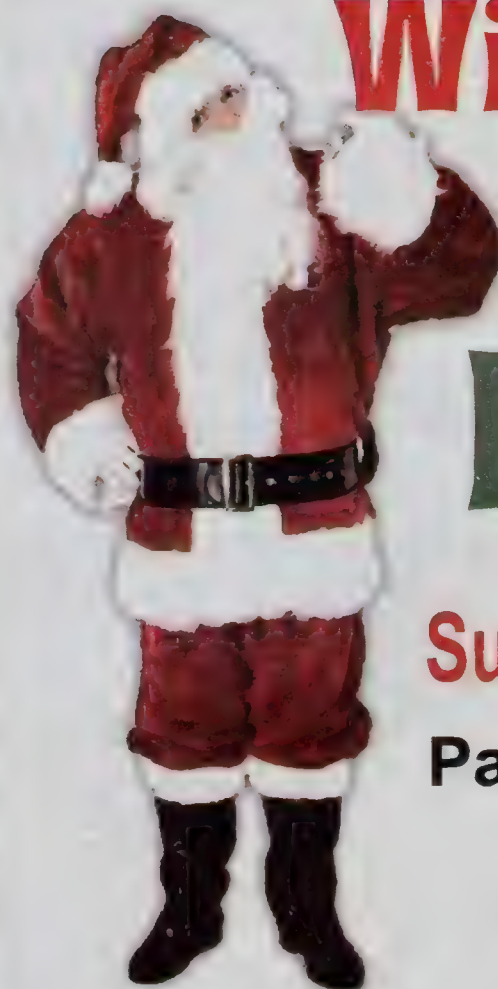
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County Claims No Responsibility for Animal Control

Cat Conundrums in Minden Hills and Highlands East Continue



"The spirit of the by-law is that they must be licensed and confined."
(Barbara Reid)

Liz Danielsen
Staff Reporter

Despite claims by at least two municipalities that the County should shoulder some responsibility for establishing a pound or shelter for stray animals, County Council chose last week to blame provincial legislation for not taking action.

The resolution shirking responsibility for establishing a county-wide pound was made after reviewing a letter from Highlands East asking County Council to consider the matter. Highlands East decided to make this request following a decision by the Board responsible for the animal shelter that they share to no longer accept cats, either domestic or feral. (The PAWS animal shelter in Faraday is shared with Bancroft,

Highlands East and Wallacetown.)

The Municipal Act lays out areas of jurisdiction for both lower-tier and upper-tier municipalities. While the Act does not place specific responsibility for animals in either tier, County Council accepted a clause that says that if an area of responsibility is not assigned to the upper-tier, they don't have the power to pass a by-law under that part of the act. However, responsibility has not been placed in the hands of the lower-tier either, which raises the question whether the County Council could, when requested, assume some responsibility.

The cost for an animal shelter is prohibitive to any small municipality that doesn't have a large turnover of stray cats or dogs. Up until a few weeks ago, the shared shelter in Faraday worked well for Highlands East until the number of cats taken there overwhelmed pound keepers.

How Highlands East will approach the problem from this point forward remains to be seen. Meanwhile, the Council in Minden Hills has had their first look at a draft Cat By-Law. The by-law addresses licensing requirements for cats, the number of cats allowed in a dwelling and how cats running at large will be handled.

The draft document, prepared by By-law Enforcement Officer Ken Jones, included nominal annual licensing fees of \$10.00 (\$15.00 if paid after the annual due date and a \$5.00 fee for each replacement tag) for each cat. The by-law also proposed to restrict the number of cats that would be allowed in or about any residence to three.

Jones pointed out several issues associated with the draft by-law. He said that passing it would require significant financial commitment for enforcement, with little gain to the municipality. First and foremost, when catching a cat caught running at large, the municipality is legally required to have a pound to take it to, or the cat would have to be set free.

Another issue raised by Jones was that in order to prove that an unlicensed cat belongs to any particular household, staff responsible for enforcement would have to 'stake out' the property and collect evidence over a period of time to prove that the cat belongs to any particular household. Jones also said that in order to prosecute, there would be costs for court procedures.

Councillor Barbara Reid suggested that it was not as important to say how many cats each household was allowed, as long as they were licensed, and residents were willing to keep them either inside or tethered in their yards. Reid also suggested that rather than having a pound, arrangements could be made to partner with a veterinarian for the animal to be kept for a minimum number of days prior to further action.

Reid said that the draft by-law did not quite capture all of her concerns. "The spirit of the by-law is that they must be licensed and confined. We must spell out what will happen if an animal is out and about and is trapped," said Reid.

Jones said that his understanding of the legislation was that the municipality must either have an agreement with a registered pound or have a pound of its own.

Deputy Reeve Cheryl Murdoch, however, said that the number of cats in a household was an issue. "If you have 20 cats in your backyard doing their business and spraying, neighbours would not be able to sit in their yard, even if the cats are on a tether." Murdoch said a situation like this already exists in Minden.

Reeve Jim McMahon advised Council of the County's ruling that responsibility for shelters lies with the lower tier municipalities. He said that subsequent to County Council's decision, Reeve Dave Burton from Highlands East had approached him with the idea of exploring a joint venture pound. As Minden Hills shares the same issues, McMahon suggested Jones work with his counterpart in Highlands East to investigate the idea.

Councillor Peter Oyler said, "When I look at the number of dogs that have been caught, the average is one dog every two weeks. We would be talking about a cost of \$1200 a pooch to build a pound. I'm convinced that a pound would be out for us, but failing a partnership with a local veterinarian I would be willing to explore the option with Highlands East if the opportunity is there." Oyler added that he supports limiting the number of cats.

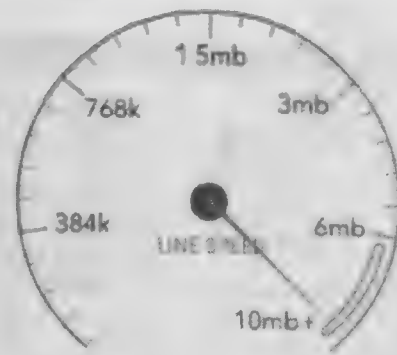
Council agreed that Jones should contact all the veterinarians in the area to determine prices and willingness to partner with the Municipality. They also asked him to pursue a joint venture with Highlands East a bit further.

Councillor Lisa Schell referred to a comment in Jones's memo about additional staff time being required for enforcement. She asked Council to keep in mind that there would be 'a lot of staff travel time for one kitty' if it had to be taken any distance to a shelter.

A solution to handling stray domestic and feral cats remains elusive, but the Voice will be sure to 'let the cat out of the bag' when an answer is found. ■

High Speed Hits the Hills

A Cool Million Granted to Haliburton County



Last week the Ontario Government announced a \$1 million grant to build additional broadband Internet infrastructure throughout Haliburton County. According to County Treasurer Laura Janke, who worked long and hard on the County's application, "When you realize that the program will distribute just \$8.8 million across the province, you can see how impressive it is that we received so much. It's going to make a big difference to our overall infrastructure."

The county will be adding an additional \$560,000 to the pot and their Internet partners, Bell Aliant will be investing \$2.24 million. The monies will allow hard wiring (with fibre optic cable) to an additional 4,800 homes and businesses across the county. "We'll be meeting with Bell Aliant this week to decide the specific sites, and the timing of the installation," said Janke. Jim Neubauer, Bell Aliant's Ontario General Manager said they'll be releasing site details as soon as they can, possibly even later this week.

All the local municipalities and the county have long identified the lack of high speed Internet to be a major barrier to future economic development. What's still uncertain is just how much of the county will remain without high speed after these 4,800 sites have been identified. ■

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Will Taxes Increase in Haliburton County?

MPAC addresses County Council

Liz Danielsen

Staff Reporter

The jury is still out on whether Haliburtonians will see a significant tax increase next year or not. While many people are still reeling from increases on their assessment notices that reach as high as 100 percent, no one will know for certain what the impact will be until municipal tax notices come out early next year.

Representatives from the Municipal Property Assessment Corporation (MPAC) made a presentation to County Council last Wednesday, to provide an explanation of their process and the steps residents can follow to determine the accuracy of their assessment, compare it to other similar properties and outline the steps to take if someone doesn't agree with MPAC's calculations.

The average residential property, waterfront and non-waterfront, with a single family detached home, increased 40 percent in the County. Waterfront property assessment increased on average anywhere between 37 percent and 42 percent depending on whether it is a principle or seasonal residence. For properties not on water the average increase in assessment was 35 percent.

The increases vary considerably between municipalities in the County. Highlands East experienced the highest average increase for waterfront properties at 45.46 percent. In Minden waterfront assessments increased the least with an average of 33.78 percent. Waterfront properties in Dysart et al increased 39.59 percent on average and Algonquin Highlands saw an average increase of 34.77 percent.

For residential properties (single family residences) that are not on the waterfront, the average increases are 29.12 percent in Algonquin Highlands, 34.23 percent in Dysart, 34.73 percent in Highlands East and finally, with the highest average increase, in Minden at 37.59 percent.

Judy Piggott, MPAC's Municipal Relations Representative, spent considerable time reviewing roles and responsibilities for all parties involved with assessment and taxation across the province, with the Ontario Government creating the legislation that mandates how properties will be assessed, MPAC administering that legislation, the independent Assessment Review Board who adjudicate complaints and the Municipalities that deal with taxation directly.

Piggott also reviewed the changes that have taken place in legislation, where assessment has gone from being done annually to a four year cycle starting in 2009. Increases in assessment for all property classes will be phased in over a four year period. There is one piece of good news in all this and that is any decreases in assessment will take effect immediately.

The deadline for property owners to request reconsideration on their assessment has been extended to March 31st. That is the first state of the appeal process for residential, farm and managed forest properties and can be done online.

The new assessment notices provide more detail than in the past. The notice also includes a User ID and Password for property owners to go on-line and visit 'AboutMyProperty' at www.mpac.com. This will allow you to peruse details of your assessment and compare it to similar properties in your area. Using an interactive map, you can obtain information on as many as 24 properties of your choice at no cost.

While this process is intended to be extremely user friendly, reports have already been heard from computer savvy individuals with state of the art equipment and software that it can be problematic. That the experience for individuals on dial-up service could be a challenge might be an understatement.

MPAC representative Valerie Jones told County Council that

increased assessment doesn't necessarily mean an increase in taxes. But not everyone is in agreement and the County Treasurer, Laura Janke is one of the first to disagree. Janke said that MPAC are creating a false impression with that statement, given the formula for education taxes.

Janke emphasized that tax bills are made up of three portions; what the County needs, what the Municipalities need and the school tax portion which constitutes over 30 percent of the tax notices. She said, "Our assessments are higher than the provincial average in Haliburton and with the increase in assessments we'll be faced with an increase on the education component of the tax bill. As much as the County and Municipal Councillors will be looking to hold the line and do what they can to mitigate increases that are beyond their control."

Speaking of the County's budget, Janke said that some of the increases in salaries and benefits are pretty high, and with only 1.9 percent growth in the County, it will make it very difficult to hold the line. She said, "To say that there will be zero percent increases will be very hard for us to achieve."

Janke finds it frustrating that there is no guarantee that the money coming out of Haliburton County will actually cover the cost of the



schools

in the County. She said, "The province will be getting a lot more given the increased assessments, but we're not getting any more educational services, despite our assessments being much higher than the average."

According to Janke, Muskoka has been dealing with higher than average increases in assessments for some time. When asked if political pressure could be brought to bear, she said, "Political discussions and approaches for changes take very long time. How much is really being spent on education has already been explored in other areas with little or no success."

Janke says that she will encourage County Council to apply political pressure for change, but is convinced that any concerns raised will likely fall on deaf ears.

The bottom line is that, until the government releases their needs for education taxes and the County and Municipalities complete their budget reviews, the extent of actual tax increases remains to be seen. ■

Helping Families Eat Nutritionally

Mark Arike

Staff Reporter

The Good Food Box Program Helps 200 Families Per Month



On 'Good Food Box Day' volunteer packers descend upon the Haliburton arena to unload cases of food that are delivered and they put each item in every bag that needs to be packed. Some of these volunteers are also delivery drivers.

Finally, volunteer drivers pick up the prepared boxes from the arena and deliver them to designated "pick-up" spots throughout the county.

For each food box that is purchased, \$1 goes back into the program, which in turn provides food boxes to volunteers and supplies for packing day.

Other partners of the program include community businesses and organizations who donate time, resources, the food or financial aid.

Health for Life is one of the key partners to the program, providing \$500-\$700 annually for the purchase of supplies and the food boxes to volunteers. Health for Life is a community partnership that promotes healthy life style choices through funding from the Ontario Government Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care.

"This is all about promoting good health in the community," said Stong.

Food box orders can be placed at the beginning of each month. The boxes are packed and delivered on the third Thursday of each month.

For more information about the Good Food Box program contact Megan Stong at 705 457-1391, extension 246. ■

There are many pieces to the puzzle in putting together the Good Food Box. Volunteers, partners, funds and coordination are all a part of the mix.

Each month in Haliburton County, the Good Food Box program provides 200 families in the area with nutritional items such as fresh fruits and vegetables. This year-round run program also helps people to stretch out their grocery shopping dollars.

On Monday, Nov. 24, Health for Life held an appreciation luncheon at the Haliburton Legion for community partners who have helped to keep this successful program running strong.

"We rely on our community volunteers and partners," said Megan Stong, Public Health Food Worker for the Haliburton Kawartha Pine-Ridge District Health Unit (HKPR) and Coordinator of the program.

The Food boxes are available to families at a cost of \$15 per box and inside each box are recipes and cooking tips.

The way that the program works is that families in need call up one of the 12 community contacts in the area with their order. The community contacts then call or fax in the orders to the program coordinator.

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of St. George's.

Woodcarvings Add to Riverwalk Project

Local Carver Walter Vanderwindt Donates His Services

Minden's Riverwalk project will be receiving up to seven wooden sculptures thanks to one local business owner.

Walter Vanderwindt, carver and owner of The Goofy Moose in Minden, felt it would be a good idea to contribute to the beautification project by committing to create one sculpture per year. Most recently, his sculpture depicting an old man's face with a blue heron on his head was installed by the Gull River, right across the street from the Minden post office.

Laura Cunliffe, Riverwalk Committee member, approached Vanderwindt with the initial idea. The carver says he also has his own ideas that will help to benefit Minden's makeover.

"I'm hoping to fund raise separately to do other carving projects in Minden, but I'm still waiting for the committee's approval," said Vanderwindt in a phone interview with The Voice.

Vanderwindt would like to make the town a bit like Orangeville, where an abundance of woodcarvings can be discovered all over the place.

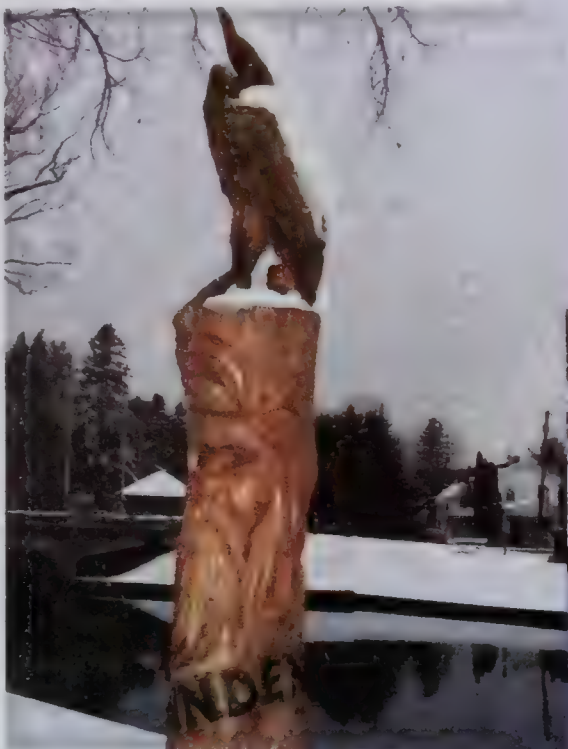
"In Orangeville, they do tours of the carvings. I did about seven carvings there," he said.

In the future, Vanderwindt hopes to bring international carvers to the area annually to carve trees in various places in Minden.

"It would be great exposure for any part of Minden," said Vanderwindt, who plans to get local artist John Haggarty on-board to make a carving for the project.

For now, Vanderwindt won't be working on any sculptures. He's waiting for the snow to go and the spring season to arrive. But many of his completed carvings can be found around the county, including locations like the Royal LePage building in Haliburton and by the former Century 21 building in Minden.

Vanderwindt has been a carver for the past six years and his business, The Goofy Moose, is on Bobcaygeon Rd. in Minden. ■



Mark Arike
Staff Reporter



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Species at Risk Continue to Face Several Threats

Presentation at Haliburton Highlands Museum Delves Into the World of Illegal Animal Trade



Mark Arike
Staff Reporter

Unbeknownst to most people, the trafficking of endangered species has become nearly as profitable as the drug trade - minus the weapons.

That was just one of the many informing and alarming facts revealed during "Threats to Turtle Species at Risk and Strategies for Recovery" - a presentation made by speakers Mike Rutter, Bancroft District Intelligence Investigations Officer and Graham Cameron, Species at Risk Biologist with the Ministry of Natural Resources.

The event was held on Thursday, Nov. 27 at the Haliburton Museum and was sponsored by the Haliburton Highlands Field Naturalists.

Rutter was first to take centre stage to talk about the seriousness of poaching, the Endangered Species Act and the use of the Internet as a buying and selling tool for species. He also gave the audience a small glimpse into the work he's involved with.

"A lot of money can be made off these species," said Rutter, while showing photos of species such as spotted turtles, wood turtles, skinks and American Ginseng. "These species are the hot potatoes as far as trafficking goes in this area."

Rutter pointed out that one spotted turtle alone can sell for much as \$1,000.

In the week prior to his public speaking engagement at the museum, Rutter performed a few quick and easy online searches on turtles available for purchase. The sheer number of results he outlined was staggering.

"They can be purchased overnight if you have a credit card," said Rutter. His presentation also showed that most of these endangered species are available in both the U.S. and Canada.

Many in the audience inquired about the kind of person who would be on the lookout for these species. Rutter answered their common question with a whole gamut of possibilities.

"There are those who have an obvious passion for reptiles and amphibians, there are criminals who make money off it, they could be professionals like me, respectable individuals involved in academics and some are from the naturalist community," he said. In some cultures, turtle soup is known to be a delicacy.

Since most of the work that Rutter is a part of is top secret, he couldn't go into specific case details. He did, however, highlight some of the instances where an individual or individuals were charged.

In each circumstance, not one of the guilty parties was sentenced to serve any jail time.

"Those who traffic drugs could go away for life," said Rutter, "but when do you see someone going in for life for selling spotted turtles?"

Once Cameron came up to do his presentation, the tone of the conversation became a little less taxing. His focus wasn't on the wrongdoings towards species at risk, but it was more of an interactive and enlightening lecture on everything you'd ever want to learn about the turtle species.

Some of the topics Cameron extensively covered included: turtle protection and recovery, key threats to the species, the life cycle of a turtle and their reproduction rates and key recovery strategies that are being conducted in the area.

The species at risk research project, led by the Haliburton Highlands Land Trust is one of the programs currently in place designed to help look for species at risk and find ways of protecting them.

Paul Heaven, Biologist and President of Glenside Ecological Services Limited, briefly spoke about the initiative at Thursday evening's presentation.

"We developed maps to pinpoint where the species at risk in the county are," explained Heaven. "We got on the ground this past summer to look for these species and to see how good our maps were. This turned out to be quite successful, as we doubled our observations of species at risk in the county since the 1970's."

So what should you do if you come across what you believe to be an endangered species? Here are a few tips: 1) Take a photo or write down a description of the species, 2) Gather information about the location you're in such as the street address, 911 number, etc., 3) Report your sighting to Paul Heaven 705 286-3181 and 4) If you're really ambitious about helping out species at risk, join a stewardship project in your area. ■

Auxiliary Ornaments Moving Fast

Annual Christmas Fund-raiser Helps Local Health Care System

Since 1970 the Haliburton Hospital Auxiliary has managed to raise over \$800,000 for Haliburton's health services. Once again this Christmas, the organization is fund-raising through sales of their handmade, painted ornaments in the community.

This is now the 10th year that auxiliary volunteers have been out and about in the county selling their popular, multi-purpose decorations. This year's ornament portrays a teddy bear sitting down with a Christmas present.

"They probably have become collector items at this point," said Judy Skinner, President of the Haliburton Hospital Auxiliary. "People look forward to getting them each year and they are all very generous. Some will give more than \$2 and they tell us to keep the change."

Though the ornaments are small, many hours go into the making of each and every one. The pieces are cut out and painted by auxiliary volunteers who gather together each week at the Haliburton hospital in the weeks before Christmas. Each ornament is signed and dated by auxiliary members.

Each year, the fund-raiser has brought in over \$2,000 in funds that go directly to benefit services at the Haliburton hospital.

"Through our various fund-raisers we help to provide them with specialized equipment. For example, some of this equipment could be for a ward such as Emergency and other times it goes for the long-term care residents," said Skinner.

Mark Arike
Staff Reporter

One of the largest donations auxiliary made was last year when they completed their \$85,000 commitment towards the purchase of a Picture Archiving and Communications System (PACS) for the Haliburton hospital.

Each year, auxiliary members decide on a different ornament design and lately there's been a high demand from the public for ornaments from the past.

"We've had people ask us if they could buy the whole series," said Skinner. Some of these previous ornaments include snowmen, Santa's and angels.

To accommodate these requests, Eunice Heyes, a long-time volunteer with the auxiliary, has taken it upon herself to gather up ornaments from each year.

"Eunice is gathering whole sets of ornaments and they will be sold as a collection," explained Skinner, who believes that many auxiliary members have extra ornaments in their possession.

Skinner commended Mrs. Heyes for her commitment to various auxiliary endeavours for the past 25 years.

"She's probably one of the finest role models the community has seen," said Skinner. "Whenever something has to be done, she's the first to say, 'I'll do that.'"

The Haliburton Hospital Auxiliary was founded in March, 1971 by Nurse Velma Smith. The purpose of the auxiliary is to assist the hospital in fields of volunteer service which may be performed on or off the premises.

Membership to the auxiliary is always open to any adult who resides in the community and is willing to contribute a payment of a modest annual fee, contribute 10 hours of service per year, attend three general meetings a year and participate in one area of service.

To find out how you can become or member or to get some of their fancy tree ornaments, call Judy at 705 754-2053. ■



Aux. Volunteers - Eunice Heyes & Linda Hanley

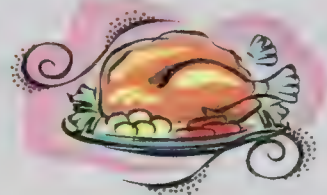
A MISSION OF LOVE 4

A Free Delicious

Traditional Turkey Dinner
for those alone at Christmas

Christmas Day

4:00 pm * Eggnog and Carols
5:00 pm * Dinner



Please call to register by Dec. 18th

Lakeside Baptist Church @ 457-2851

Steve & Stephanie Smith @ 457-3394

or Sue Bain @ 457-2570

Lakeside Baptist
Church
4 Park Street
Haliburton, ON
457-2851

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introducing Voice Christmas Bucks

Cox's Apparel 286-4584
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\$25

\$25 off any purchase of \$100 or more

One discount per customer per purchase
Not to be combined with other offers
Offer valid until Dec. 31, 2008

The County Voice

Bob & Wendy's Haliburton

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\$1 off purchase of 3 (1Litre) Kawartha Dairy Egg Nogs

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A bear for all reasons!

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A FUN PLACE TO SHOP!
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Highland St. Haliburton

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The County Voice

OUTDOORS PLUS 54 York St. Under CIBC

Also... **We pay the TAXES** during month of December 2008

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Offer valid until Dec. 31, 2008

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The County Voice

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The Finest in Natural Foods & Supplements

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286-1424

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Offer valid until Dec. 24, 2008

The County Voice

McMahon Feeds and Needs

286-2801
Bobcaygeon Rd. Minden

\$5

\$5 off when you purchase 5 bags of Deer Feed.

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Offer valid until Dec. 31, 2008

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Minden Home hardware & Building Centre
Fax 705-286-4544
Main Street, Minden
286-1351

\$10 off any toy purchases of \$100 or more

One discount per customer per purchase
Not to be combined with other offers
Offer valid until Dec. 24, 2008

The County Voice

Home Decor Store
Located at

Easton's val-u-mart

\$20 off any purchase of \$100 or more

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Valid only on General Merchandise in Home Decor Store
Offer valid until Dec. 24, 2008

The County Voice

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Highland St. Haliburton
457-2713

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Not to be combined with other offers
Offer valid until Dec. 31, 2008

The County Voice

Master's Book Store
In The Village Barn
195 Highland Street, Haliburton

\$5 off any purchase of \$50 or more

One discount per customer per purchase
Not to be combined with other offers
Offer valid until Dec. 31, 2008

The County Voice

the Tutu Café
457-9888 Village Barn - Lower Level
Highland St. Haliburton

\$5 off any purchase of \$40 or more

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Not to be combined with other offers
Offer valid until Dec. 31, 2008

The County Voice

JanKnit's STUDIO
JanKnitsstudio.com
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Not to be combined with other offers. Can be used with sale priced fur garments. Offer valid until Dec. 31, 2008

The County Voice

TODAY'S independent
Win your Christmas Feast!
With every \$50 purchase, enter this ballot in draw box at store. Winner receives a FREE TURKEY and all the fixings for a wonderful Christmas Feast!

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Phone # _____

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Offer valid until Dec. 31, 2008

The County Voice

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Tips From Aaron Walker How to Save Money On Groceries

- Give children refillable juice containers instead of juice boxes
- Buy inexpensive meal bases like Kraft dinner or ramen noodles and add fresh seasonal or frozen veggies
- Find what food services are available through local Churches, 4C's, Legion, etc.
- Include beans/legumes/nut proteins (peanut butter) in diet to offset meat and dairy protein costs
- Make a weekly meal plan to increase nutritional awareness and decrease grocery bill
- Limit lunch treats for kids to every other day (at the most)
- Eat seasonal produce — you will pay less for Ontario veggies and fruit than something flown in from Central America or California
- Ask your kids what they like so they actually eat everything on their plate
- Make a vegetable garden at home and grow some of your own food
- Buy no-name or store brands instead of brand name products

Aaron's South-Western Shepherd's Pie

This recipe can be frozen and re-heated

- 1 onion
- 1 green pepper
- 6 mushrooms
- 3 Cloves of garlic
- 2 cans of crushed tomatoes
- 1 pound of medium ground beef
- 2 tablespoons of chili powder
- 1 can kidney beans
- 1 can chickpeas
- 4 pounds of potatoes
- 1 cup of milk

Directions: Sauté onions and garlic until clear, add diced peppers, sliced mushrooms and continue to simmer for approximately 3 minutes. Add the ground beef and cook thoroughly. Add the beans, chickpeas, crushed tomatoes and seasoning, simmer until desired consistency. Separately boil peeled and sliced potatoes. Once boiled, mash potatoes with one cup of milk. Pour the beef mixture into shallow pan and top with mashed potatoes. Bake at 350 degrees for 1/2 hour.

Serves 8 people-portion cost \$1.50 per serving. ■



November's "Chef-of-the-Month" Shows How to Make a Meal High in Protein

Last Wednesday, "Chef-of-the-Month" Aaron Walker from the Grill On the Gull Restaurant in Minden came to the conclusion that it just isn't possible to make a healthy meal for a family of four for a day on a budget of only \$6.50.

Walker was the second featured chef in SIRCH's Chef of the Month Challenge, a new initiative that invites local area chefs to make affordable and nutritious family meals. On the fourth Wednesday of the month, the featured chef puts on a live cooking demonstration at Bob and Wendy's Foodland in Haliburton where they explain how to prepare and make the meal. The program began last month with Franka Andriano of Franka's Cafe & Catering.

Walker was pleased to be a part of the program that is helping to show people how to stretch their grocery budgets.

"I'm glad to help the community in any way that I can," said Walker to The Voice prior to his presentation. Walker made a savoury South-Western Shepherd's pie that was high in protein.

"I incorporated beans into it because they are a healthy and cheap source of protein," said Walker. "Beans also mix up the flavour a bit."

Like most traditional Shepherd's pie recipes, Walker included ground beef in the mix. By excluding the meat, one could make substantial savings on the overall cost of the meal. However, Walker doesn't think that most people would omit meat as an ingredient.

"It would make it cheaper but it wouldn't be as tasty," he said.

In terms of the meal's cost, Walker calculated that his completed meal would feed eight people for \$1.50 per plate.

Statistics provided by SIRCH show that many parents with young children have incomes of less than \$18,000/year. This means that they often have less than \$200/month to feed a family of four after paying expenses like rent, hydro and heat. This can make it difficult for them to provide themselves with a complete and nutritionally balanced diet.

Walker himself stated that the cost of food is high and continues to rise.

"With three kids, groceries are the highest bill I have every month. It's higher than my car and mortgage payments," he said. Walker would also like to point out that the Grill on the Gull will be serving a free Boxing Day Brunch from 9 am until noon on December 26th.

The next Chef-of-the-Month event is scheduled to be held on Wednesday, Dec. 17 and will feature Monty Miscio of the Bonnie View Inn. Miscio will be showing how to use Christmas leftovers for future meals.

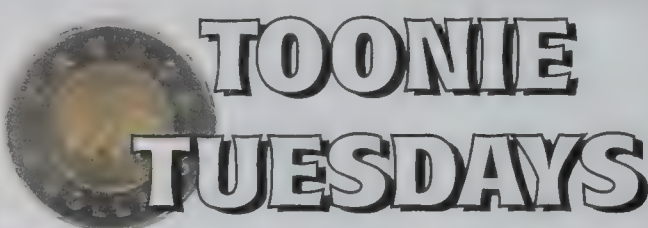
And to encourage more people to attend the live cooking show, prizes will be given away.

For more information about the Chef-of-the-Month challenge contact Nancy Brownsberger at 705 457-1742, extension 211. ■

Minden Rotary Club Invests in Culture

Rotary Club of Minden members brought in a blast of cheer in October to R.D. Lawrence Place when they dropped off a cheque for \$2,500 and cuddled up to Half Mast, a white-tailed deer that mysteriously arrived at the centre this summer.





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CATALOG COMPANY
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Rockcliffe
MINDEN, ONTARIO
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Offer valid until Dec. 24, 2008

The County Voice

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Minden
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\$5 off any purchase of \$50 or more

One discount per customer per purchase
Excludes Prescriptions, Postal, & sale items.
Offer valid until Dec. 31, 2008

The County Voice

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Minden
286-1132

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Not Valid with any other promotions or discounts.
Offer valid until Dec. 31, 2008

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The County Voice

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.ca
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The County Voice

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Country music legend George Hamilton IV sings in Haliburton

Grand Ole' Opry star stops by to see old friend

Terrance Gavan

Staff Reporter

George Hamilton IV is a troubadour, raconteur, minstrel and a mighty fine guitar picker who hails from Winston Salem, North Carolina. He should never be confused with that other George Hamilton. You know the one. The movie actor with the panned tan and the sardonic smile.

George Hamilton IV, country legend, senior magistrate of the Grand Ole Opry in Nashville, Tennessee will tell you in no uncertain terms, "I'm the other George." And then he'll chuckle some.

In fact, George Hamilton IV told a little story about name-sake confusion to a full house of Haliburton Highlands country music aficionados gathered at Johnny and Teresa Burke's Carpenter's Inn on Calico Road last Saturday afternoon. He told the story with that lovely, infectious, and almost alarmingly polite country drawl ... a voice that dips, dives and dekes from the deep, dank and uncooked wooded hollers of North Carolina's Blue Ridge Mountains.

"I pulled into Haliburton and stopped at a store to ask directions for your Canoe Radio station here because I was doing an interview there earlier this morning," Hamilton told the enthusiastic crowd - all of whom, by the way, knew exactly who they had come to see.

"I was waiting in line and two women were in line talkin' and one said, 'Did you hear that George Hamilton is coming to town?' And the other young lady said, 'George Hamilton the good looking movie star?' And the first lady said, 'No, not that one, George Hamilton from the Grand Ole' Opry ... plain lookin' old dude ... country singer.'"

Hamilton may be a "plain lookin' old dude" but he is also a true ambassador of country music. His voice rolls like a trill, smooth as a brook and he commands an audience with that innate penchant for the bon mot, the self-deprecating anecdote and the story. He's been doing this for over half a century and it shows; it's there in the cadence, the delivery, the guitar styling and the unassuming voice; George issues confidence and his concert flows like a stream of consciousness, natural, lilting and strong, devoid of pretext.

Simply put, he's a natural; unadorned and divest of those accoutrements of the managed identity. A man, who unlike that other George, is just plain folk.

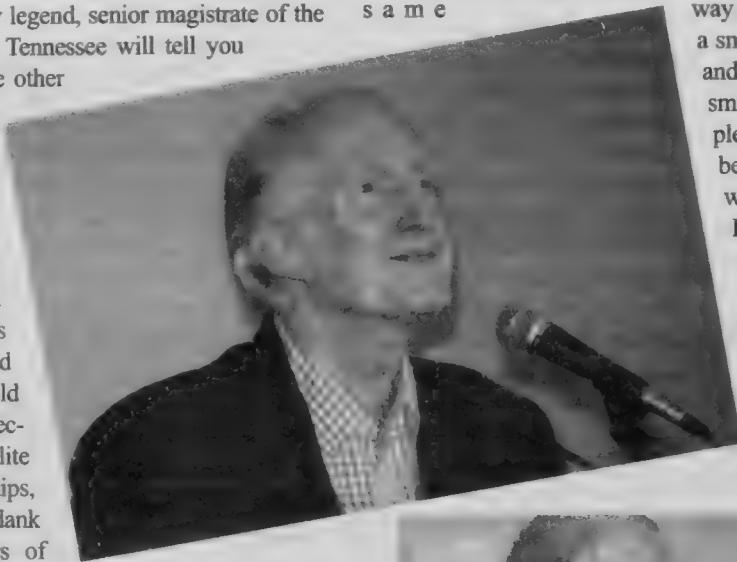
"I come from a long line of George's," said Hamilton. "George the first was a farmer in the Blue Ridge Mountains and his number one crop was corn ... some say that ol' George got 36 gallons to the acre." The wink is implied; North Carolina's Blue Ridge country being the American birthplace of corn whiskey. Hamilton just happens to be at home on stage, and especially so, when immersed in the crowded womb of like-minded souls as he was last Saturday. Folks who grew up with Chet and Merle and Charlie. (Atkins, Haggard and Pride in case they need further intros) And so George was comfy last Saturday at the Carpenter's Inn. At home with the faithful, seated around the wood stove, overlooking a windowed vista of snow-cluttered Highlands' forest.

And why not? Hamilton has been doing these gigs for a long, long time. He began performing in the late 1950s as a teen idol, later switching to pop country and folk music. As he told the audience last Saturday: "I started with a song called 'A Rose and a Baby Ruth' and I had some luck with that." The song, written by John D. Loudermilk, climbed to number 6 on the American pop charts. By 1960, 'Baby Ruth' had attained gold record status for ABC-Paramount. "I started with a hit and it's been downhill since," laughed Hamilton. He says that, but he doesn't believe it. In truth he wouldn't trade places with any of those pop stars today. He is happy today, ensconced in his element. Happy, married to his high school sweetheart Adelaide Peyton for 50 years now;

and equally happy to have been on the Grand Ole Opry stage for 48 years. Hamilton did take time to pay homage to that first pop hit, because he says it allowed him to stick that toe in the door of the Opry.

In fact, Hamilton started

his concert last Saturday the way he started his career: with a smooth capture of 'A Rose and a Baby Ruth' and he smiled as he saw some people singing along. "I can't believe that y'all know the words to that one," said Hamilton. "That's an old, old song." That old song led to traveling gigs with The Everly Brothers, Buddy Holly and Gene Vincent. But he says there was something in the teen ballads that



didn't quite mesh with his psyche.

Hamilton told us last Saturday that his heart has always been immersed in country, ever since obtaining his first guitar at the age of 12 with money earned from his paper route.

"My heart was in Nashville," Hamilton says today. And there can be little doubt that the decision he made has paid dividends. He has never succumbed to the trapse and trudge of royalty and has remained true to his base. He has that spark, that special flair for the story. It was evident on stage last Saturday that there is much more to this multi-layered man than meets the eye.

Indeed, he will be embarking on a tour of England this week, the stop at Johnny and Teresa's Carpenter's Inn Bread and Breakfast a little nudge to a friend.

Johnny Burke, who is a country legend in his own right, met George Hamilton way back in the 60s at the Horseshoe Lounge in Toronto. Burke was playing double bass and part of the house band back then. The two became friends. One thing about those good ol' boys from North Carolina. They never forget a friend. And so as soon as Hamilton knew he would be playing a gig in Gravenhurst (last Friday evening) he got on the phone and called Johnny and Teresa. Johnny asked him if he would have time, before his departure from Buffalo, NY to England on Monday, to drop by. Teresa and Johnny invited a few friends to the Carpenter's Inn for a reunion of sorts. Hamilton on guitar and Johnny on stand up bass, like just like the old days. "I'll tell you what, we had no time to rehearse this afternoon before the concert and it shows you just how good a musician Johnny here is, because I'm wingin' it and he's followin'," said Hamilton, midway through the show.

Hamilton says he owes a debt of gratitude to Burke and to Canada because those gigs at the Horseshoe also provided the impetus for a nice little segue into Canadian music.

"I first met Gordon Lightfoot at the Horseshoe back in 1965 and he was playin' a flat top Martin back then and he played 'Early Morning Rain' and I was hooked," said Hamilton. From that meeting and other encounters with the likes of Joni Mitchell, he became involved in folk roots music and along with his RCA boss and producer Chet Atkins he went on to record a series of five Canadian content albums. In the middle of it all he found time to star on a television show broadcast from a Hamilton television station.

The first Canadian content album, released in 1969, needed a signature tune. "Chet said 'you need a theme song to pull it all together' and that was when I approached Ray Griff with the idea. I told him I needed a song that captures the spirit of Canada," said Hamilton. And out of that little meeting came the enduring Canadian anthem 'Canadian Pacific.'

The concert's second act featured an impromptu dovetail into the festive season. Hamilton and Burke offered a series of haunting and majestic Christmas melodies. Hamilton says that his upcoming English excursion will feature stops at a number of smaller venues and churches. Hamilton has become increasingly involved in gospel music lately and he has a very entrenched and vocal following in the British Isles.

Silver Bells and Away in a Manger stood as preface to the afternoon's highlight, Silent Night, played on guitar and stand up bass. The song struck a chord, but it was the story about the song that well and truly moved the crowd. Hamilton told the tale of the birth of that beautiful melody, high in the Alps, in a chapel in Oberndorf, Austria on Christmas Eve. He is a master of the spoken word, and his

prose is spun from the cloth of the storyteller. The words come bare, intrinsic and moving. He told of that congregation attending Midnight Mass in St. Nicholas Church, high in the Alps, hearing for the first time the poem penned by Father Joseph Mohr, and the melody written by choir director, Franz Xaver Gruber. The song, says Hamilton, rang through the church to the accompaniment of Father Mohr's mountain guitar. The organ wasn't working. Mice may have blocked or chewed away the innards, said Hamilton. Improvisation was called for. Gruber and Mohr introduced the world to that lovely hymn accompanied only by the humble guitar and a maestro's voice.

Compelling story. Made even more compelling as Johnny Burke and George Hamilton IV launched into their own rendition of Silent Night, Holy Night beneath the high-ceilinged rafters of the Carpenter's Inn last Saturday afternoon. On lowly guitar and stand up bass, accompanied by the sun's reflection off the snow-covered trees in the bush on Calico Road. It was, in a word, beautiful.

"I'll be in England for the next little while and I'll be doing some of these Christmas songs and I'd like to thank you for letting me practice on you today," said Hamilton.

Fitting and perhaps telling here, that the performer thanked his audience. For the pleasure of the company.

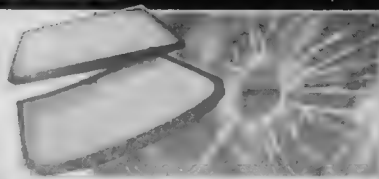
As if we needed any more proof that this indeed was "The Real" George Hamilton.

Country Gentleman, troubadour, raconteur, pretty nice guitar picker ... you know the one ... "plain lookin' old dude ... country singer." ■

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Van Blow-Out

2008 CHEVROLET UPLANDER: COMPLETE WITH 3.9 LITRE V6, AUTOMATIC TRANSMISSION, AIR CONDITIONING, 7 PASSENGER SEATING, REMOTE START, DEEP TINT GLASS, POWER WINDOWS, LOCKS, AND MIRRORS, AM/FM/CD, TILT STEERING, TRACTION CONTROL, ONSTAR, AND MUCH MORE! STOCK 08214

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Mark Arike
Staff Reporter

Business and Municipal Representatives Chosen

Program and Accommodation Review Committee (PARC) Heads Into First Public Consultation Meeting at Cardiff Elementary School

In October the first meeting of the Program and Accommodation Review Committee (PARC) was held in Haliburton. At that meeting, a motion was made to recruit two community representatives who would provide strong and impartial voices to the process that will ultimately impact the futures of the Cardiff and Wilberforce Elementary Schools.

On Tuesday, Nov. 25 at the Trillium Lakelands School Board's (TLDSB) regular meeting of the board of trustees in Lindsay, the two new additions (and only applicants) to the committee were announced.

Dorian Young, a Minden businessman, former Chair of the Haliburton Highlands Secondary School Council and a past District School Council Representative, learned that he was chosen to join the committee last week. Also coming on-board with him is Suzanne Partridge, Councillor from the Municipality of Highlands East.

In recent years, both the Cardiff and Wilberforce Elementary Schools have seen a steady decline in student enrollment. At Cardiff Elementary School there are currently 60 students and Wilberforce has 61. Statistics also show that declines in student enrollment are on the rise across the Province.

At a TLDSB board meeting in September, Kathryn Verduyn, Director of Education, made the recommendation that a PARC committee be formed.

A Program and Accommodation Review is defined as a study

of a school or group of schools where challenges lie in providing a range of learning opportunities for students and where there may be a need to consider the possible consolidation, closure, or program relocation of one or more schools.

The PARC process is designed by the Ministry of Education "to include full involvement of an informed local community." It is also expected that recommendations from the Committee to the TLDSB Board consider the value of the school to the community.

To allow the community to have their voices heard, a minimum of four public consultation meetings will be held in Wilberforce and Cardiff. The first meeting was held yesterday afternoon in Cardiff (a complete report will be featured in next week's issue of The Voice).

Partridge, who also has first-hand experience in the local school system, has served as a school board trustee in the past. She says she firmly believes in putting children first.

"Having a good school system is integral to having a healthy community," said Partridge in a phone interview The Voice.

Partridge is aware that the accommodation and review process could take up to two years, but that doesn't seem to present a problem to her.

"I'm not worried about the time it could take," she said.

After the smoke has cleared, Partridge says she just wants whatever is best for students at both schools.

"I'm hoping that we come to a solution that is the best scenario for children in the school. You have to weigh all the options and listen to everything - you can't have preconceived ideas. We need to be totally open-minded."

Although Partridge has assisted teachers at the Cardiff Elementary School in the past by volunteering in classrooms, she says she plans on being

completely impartial in the review process.

"I won't be biased one way or another," said Partridge.

At the most recent meeting of the Board of Trustees, board members agreed that a lack of applications for the positions didn't necessarily mean that there was a lack of interest in the process. In their opinion, many eligible for the position may have felt like they would've been stuck between a rock and hard place.

"I tried to get local business people's interest in our area," explained Valerie Smith, Trustee for the Haliburton area. "Some felt very passionate about their local schools, but in the end they didn't feel they could be impartial in the process." ■



Ski/Snowboard Season Starts Saturday December 6th

Sir Sam's began making snow on the 17th of November and Mother Nature has been kind. We have received over 45cm of snow. Snow making operations will begin again on Thursday the 4th of December.

Sir Sam's will open on the 6th & 7th of December. Two lifts will be in operation and three runs will be open. Hours of operation are from 9:30 am to 4:30 p.m.

A flat rate reduced price lift ticket of \$25.00 for all age groups will be available. Sir Sam's will be open weekends only until the 20th of Dec. ■



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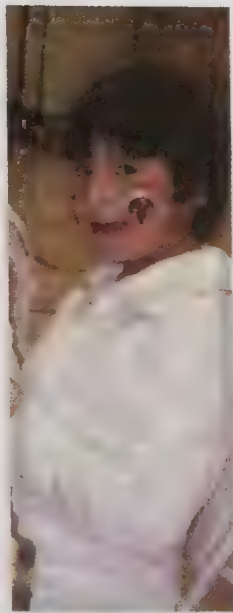
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Dorset Knows How to Party Kids and Families Show That the Christmas Spirit is in the Air

Rambunctious yet playful children could be seen chasing each other with balloons at the Dorset Recreation Centre last Sunday as they waited for the "big man" to arrive during the town's annual Children's Christmas Party.

Throughout the afternoon, kids and their families spent quality time together working away on some festive arts and crafts projects, opening up presents after greeting Santa and snacking on food and refreshments. Parents were asked to bring the wrapped gifts that were delivered to the kids by jolly old St. Nick and The Dorset Lions Club sponsored the event.

Following the fun inside of the recreational centre, a portion of the people from the party walked across the street for the community's 14th annual Christmas tree lighting ceremony. Many others from the community also came out for the occasion.

Prior to the evening's annual tradition, Dorset firefighters cooked up free hot dogs and hamburgers for those in attendance and hot chocolate was also served to help keep the crowd warm.

The man chosen to plug in this year's tree was Ted Sage, a full-time resident of Dorset for nearly 40 years. ■



Long time Dorset resident Ted Sage plugs in the tree.



Mark Arike
Staff Reporter

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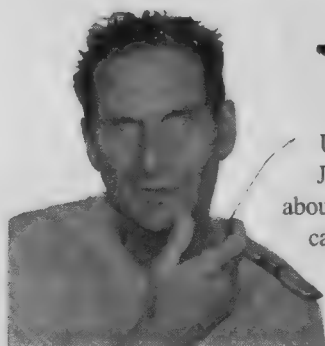
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Frost's Not Guilty Verdict Paints Lipstick on a Pig

*I can't define jerk - but I know one
when I see him*



Terrance Gavan
Sports Editor

United States Supreme Court Justice Potter Stewart said this about obscenity back in 1964: "I can't define it ... but I know it when I see it."

I can sympathize with ol' Potter. I can't define "bloated, egocentric, foul, despicable, loathsome, bullyboy jerk."

But like Justice Stewart, I know him when I see him.

In fact, last week I saw him amble adroitly out of a Napanee courtroom, dodging cameras and taunts. David Frost, former coach and now self-proclaimed "hockeygodonline" is a free man today. Free to spill vile bile, venom and vox vitriol on the web via his recently unveiled website hockeygodonline.com. I kid you not. (More on this drab and dingy detour later.)

Frost, that fat frump, free of charges comprising a dirty little laundry list that included four counts of sexual exploitation. The charges date back to a time when Frost was living in a motel room in Deseronto, Ontario coaching the Ontario Junior A Quinte Hawks. Charges which, if you were following the trial that ended last Friday, might have induced strong and frequent urges to shower repeatedly lest the dirt and innuendo promulgated by the testimony ingrain too tightly on the invulnerable unwashed psyche.

The trial threw a pall of implied indictment over junior hockey in Canada. It opened a veritable Pandora's hamper of sullied, smarmy secrets. The trial surfaced ugly ditties and parlayed tinged and implied overtones of a Svengali cult orchestrated by a loud and loathsome lout. (In fact there are players who say that Frost's inner sanctum of players called themselves just that: The Cult.)

The trial included testimony of two young women, who stood bravely in court despite knowledge that their identities would not

be protected under a press shield. The women, who are in their late twenties now, stood up in open court testifying to Frost's involvement in a myriad of sexual escapades with his players and an assortment of young girls while coaching in Deseronto back in 1997-98. Coaching in this case was a pejorative. Frost's ideas vis-a-vis coaching does not dovetail with any definition provided by the rules and tenets of Hockey Canada's coaching code of conduct.

The player victims were also called to testify - their identities, unlike the women, protected under a court-ordered shield, - and they stood up and rejected all charges against their former coach. In fact they went a step further and served up an ugly little indictment of their own, calling the testimony misleading, while implying that the young women were in fact responsible in no small part for the numerous episodes of group sex. Group sex which the sheltered boys on the bus said never included Svengali Frost.

In short, they backed their former mentor, while at the same time specifying that they wanted nothing more to do with him. In testifying at trial they recanted and renounced earlier statements incriminating Frost, and they made it clear that they wanted to put the whole sordid adventure behind them.

Cult rule: Once you drink the Kool Aid, it's hard to admit, all these years hence, that it might have been a bad idea.

The judge, unlike the court of public opinion, is bound by fine letters of law, British jurisprudence and the rules of evidence. He pronounced Frost not guilty.

Not guilty ... lipstick on the pig.

"A significant amount of evidence in this case exposed a dark and very unhealthy side of hockey," Ontario Court Justice Geoff Griffin said in acquitting Frost. It's a culture of "misogyny" that's "extremely offensive and must be denounced," he added. No matter. Frost is free.

One of the most telling exchanges of the whole shebang came after it was all over. Telling, because it speaks to the character - or diminished capacity - of David Frost.

As the trial adjourned and the court began to empty, a female spectator, the sister of one of the women who had testified for the prosecution, yelled, "Scumball!" a bon mot aimed at Frost as he sashayed with that smarmy smile to the door. "That's for my sister," she added.

Frost turned and said, "Go f--- yourself." Beautiful. It sums the man. Jerk.

And there stood the man, that vile twerp, stripped of any humanity, devoid of remorse and absolutely convinced, in his own deluded, knackered noggin, that he has done nothing intrinsically wrong. His mindset implicit in that spat epithet. The belligerent bullyboy emerging with the timeworn tool of the trade: The lash, the shout, the quick backhand, the seething temper. The control freak in his element.

Other things surfaced in this trial as well.

Three players and a trainer told court they'd seen other shocking things, like Frost swearing at players, hitting them with hockey sticks, dumping garbage over them, punching one boy in the face and throwing a water bottle at another. Jerk.

A former player Jason Flick told court that during the 1996-97 season, Frost grabbed a player, Mike Danton, by his jersey and punched him in the face with a closed fist, a blow that bounced Danton's head against the cement wall. The punishment was apparently accepted as a de rigeur part of the program by Danton. The lack of affect or response was what most concerned Flick. "That was the strange thing, he didn't block the punches or say stop or anything," testified Flick. "He just sort of took the punches in the face and that was it." Flick said the rest of the players were too scared to move or intervene. Frost the bully in a roomful of kids. Absolute power exerted absolutely. Jerk. Coward.

Today Danton is doing time in a jail cell in St. Louis. Danton, you may recall, hired a hit man to have his former mentor transported to the great beyond via a Soprano style 22 caliber exit strategy. Convicted in 2004 of hiring a hit man to kill Frost, Danton is now serving out a seven and a half year sentence.

Danton, you may also recall, left his family as a youth and changed his name from Jefferson to Danton, accepting Frost as his surrogate father and vowing never again to talk or have anything more to do with his family.

The odd thing? Even in jail, even after a career cut short by that stout bully and jerk, Danton refuses to reply to letters from his family.

The stranger thing?

Danton is billed as a contributing partner on Frost's new website: www.hockeygodonline.com.

The site was activated last weekend shortly after Frosty walked on all charges.

It was given a pre-launch boost in an Ottawa Citizen article on Saturday and today Frost is welcoming viewers and site hits from "66 countries/territories." God help us all. Can the locusts, rivers of blood and popsicles in hell be far behind?

Webmaster Frost, says that he's been getting thousands of emails from "concerned parents" asking for - get this - suggestions and advice on the training of their children. Really. Parents asking Frost for advice on where to send their kids for hockey camp.

"I will however tell all the interested hockey parents that emailed the site for our opinion on what (sic) is the best hockey school to send your players to? (sic)" writes Frost, who remains a positively illiterate giddygodonline.

"Most of you," slavers Frosty, "commenting that you wanted an intense camp that wasn't just a day care. We will research this for you all and be responding shortly (sic), I do have a few in mind both in Canada and the United States but since I'm no longer in that business I want to ask some questions to people that I trust in hockey that know of these hockey schools." (sic and sic)

He doesn't mention that he's no longer in the business because he's been vilified as persona non grata by Hockey Canada and every hockey league from Toronto to Timbuktu.

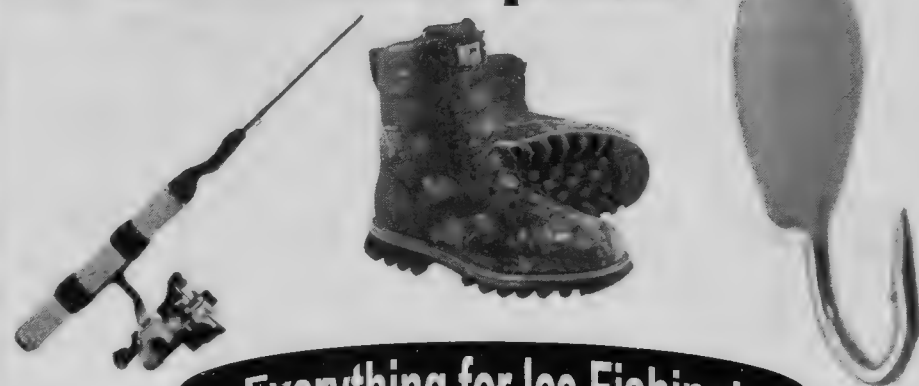
Just so you're warned. He also has a monthly Hottie posted. A monthly award to a young woman clothed scantily in a hockey jersey. Danton will be posting blogs from the crowbar inn, but has yet to file a report. He has a YouTube video of a Danton NHL scrap on the blog page. He says that he and Mike are still best buddies. In spite of that "attempted murder thing."

In his first two blog spots Frost compares himself favourably to new Leaf's boss Brian Burke. We can only hope that this is brought to Burke's attention and that the two meet someday soon in a dark corridor in the bowels of the Rogers Center.

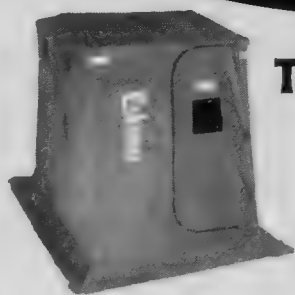
Frost also takes time to reach out to Toronto Star reporter Rosie Dimanno, who, in a recent column, had the temerity to suggest that Frosty had a beer gut.

"First to Rosie D. from the Toronto Star who before this trial I wouldn't have known you, if I drove over you in my truck! (sic, sic and sic)" writes Frosty the Illiterate. "Rose D from the Toronto Star let me give you some unsolicited advice:

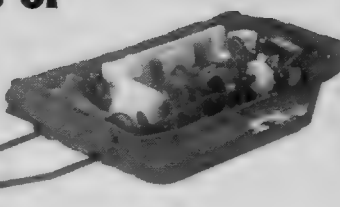
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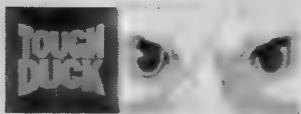
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Red Hawks Extend Streak to Three – Griffith Pops Pair

Hal High hockey team patient, poised and pretty prepossessing

Terrance Gavan

Sports Editor

Last fall, as backup quarterback of the Hal High Red Hawk football team, Scott Griffith prepared. He took practice snaps, he studied the play book and he stood in the wings. That's what backups do. They prepare. They read and they get ready. Next year, with the departure of starting QB Nate Woodcock Griffith

will be stepping up and into the maelstrom, the mix, the hot pocket.



Goaltender Alex Monk Cray was a stalwart in the crease as Hal High red Hawks pushed their season record to 3-0 with a 4-1 win over St Thomas.

will be stepping up and into the maelstrom, the mix, the hot pocket.

Griffith is, to put it bluntly, a leader. And he's no one trick pony. He proved that last Monday night at the Dysart Skating Emporium, leading the Red Hawk hockey squad to an impressive 4-1 decision over league rival St Thomas Aquinas Griffins.

Griffith scored two goals in the game, but more important, he led by example. He displayed that head's up, hard charging, momentum-shifting style which has distilled as hallmark of this young Red Hawk team.

On Monday, Griffith's imprimatur was indelible and undeniable.

Forecheck, backcheck and hustle. That is this team's mantra. And if that's the motto, the attendant mission statement is hustle.

Griffith played the role of giddyup guru last Monday, his play sparking a sparkling second and third period Red Hawk outburst of solid two way play.

The Grifs and Hawks played to a scoreless tie after one period. In high school hockey, with foreshortened 15 minute periods and

no intermission between periods one and two, teams rely on a brief one-minute pep talk between the first two frames.

Not a great deal of time for Red Hawk coaches Gary Brohman and Ron Yake to deliver much in the way of soothsaying, advice or game-altering recipes. But whatever Yake and Brohman managed to squeak into the brief huddle paid dividends. Either that, or Griffith simply realized that it was time for someone to take charge.

And who better to take charge then, than the aspiring pivot? Griffith parlayed a little moxie in the opening minute of the second frame, aided and abetted by a sly peek and read courtesy of the wise and wonderful Ian Bottum, who noticed a little hole in the Griffins' heretofore solid defensive set.

Bottum, a forechecking and backchecking demon, intercepted a pass in a patch of open ice near the center stripe and wavered nary a nanosecond before noticing the cartwheeling Griffith performing a short donut turn and go. Bottum's pass was sure and it was handled deftly by Griffith, setting the quick forward in all alone from the blue line.

It all happened in a wink, and kudos must go to Bottum who set the whole thing in motion. But no small credit is also due Griffith, whose sure hands and nimble touch were both evident as he popped the biscuit past a sprawling and befuddled St Thomas goaltender.

That goal, coming just 48 seconds into the second frame formed the trump on a teetering house of Griffin cards.

Not often does one goal a game make. But that said, this goal, coming on the heels of a scoreless first and a pretty impressive display of defensive hockey on the part of both teams was a statement-maker.

The goal sparked a surge. The Hawks, buoyed by the goal and a pretty nice retinue of home town support seemed to jump to attention.

It also seemed to induce a little change in the Griffins game plan. They started pressing and as they pressed they took a series of meddlesome penalties, a painful exercise which forced a shift in consequence.

Griffith scored his second goal on a power play with two Aquinas players sitting in the sin bin. A goal by Mark Vasey, again on the power play, stretched the Red Hawk lead to 3-0 and that's how things adjourned at the end of two.

The Griffins managed to sneak a goal by starting goaltender Alex Monk-Cray on a power play of their own at 6:15 of the third, but that was nullified in the final minute as a hard pressing and pinching St Thomas squad fell prey to the whirling dervish

wheels of Bottum, who intercepted a pass and flew in alone from center ice, popping a sure wrister past the beaten and beleaguered Griffin goaltender to put an exclamation mark on the proceedings.

Matt Rae, Drew Paul, DJ Howorko and Jesse Tallman had assists in the contest. Derek Marky replied with the Griffins lone marker.

Yake was understandably happy with all facets of the game, smiling in the corridor outside the Hawks dressing room. Yet, at the same time, he was reminding all of the players as they left the dressing room to "wear a tie tomorrow" that warning, in preparation for an important Tuesday afternoon encounter against Peterborough's Holy Cross.

"This was a nice one to win tonight, but we've got another tough one tomorrow (Tuesday)," said Yake. (Results were not available at press time).

He was pretty happy about the play of everyone involved, but was probably more satisfied with the perseverance of the Hawks, who rebounded after that scoreless first to take charge. "They (St Thomas) have a good solid team, and they played very well in that first period," said Yake. "We just continued to work the forecheck and I think that was the difference. We also capitalized on the power play chances that we had in the second and that gave us some room."

Yake added that their 3-0 start was gratifying, but cautioned that it's still a very long season, and they have some very dicey games looming on the horizon. The Hawks played Holy Cross last Tuesday (Dec 2) and they will be hosting St. Peter's Secondary next Monday, December 8 at the Dysart Emporium, Game time is 7:15 and if you're looking for a panacea to Leaf heartburn, you could do worse. It's big bang for the buck. ■



Survivor - The Home Edition

Sports Column Cont'd...

...from pg. 26

When you live in a glass house, you should know, that you shouldn't throw stones regarding personal appearances (sic). Second I implore you to immediately put the mirrors back up in your home that you so obviously must have taken down." (sic, sic and sic)

Ouch. Rosie will be filing a lawsuit as soon as the translation comes in.

Meanwhile, this might be funny if it wasn't so gosh darn sad.

My concern is for the young guys who are playing junior hockey today. Nice kids who may be tarnished actively and retroactively by this awful brush. This defense of a jerk. A defense that hinged upon the indictment of an institution.

As the judge said: "A significant amount of evidence in this case exposed a dark and very unhealthy side of hockey."

I like to think it exposed a crack in the floorboard. Time to see no more kids are subjected to guys like this. Time for due diligence and a rethinking of just who's minding the store.

Things like this happen only when we allow the inmates to run the asylum. ■

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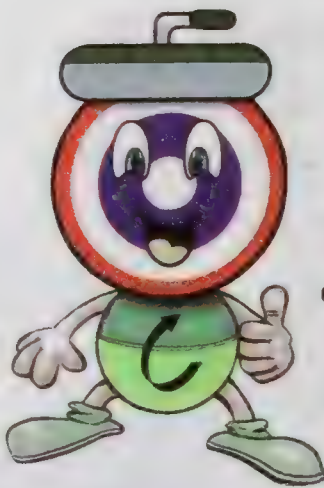
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Haliburton Curling Club News

By Wendy Vermeersch

The Grand Ladies of Haliburton Curling Club

in honour of cock. Sixteen teams curled in the two draws with the overall winners being Fern Timbers team of Marilyn Watson, Mary Ann Hodgins and Barb Foote. Winners of the first draw were a team skipped by Shirley Howse, vice Lorraine Virgin, second Heather Elvins and lead Marg Dart. The most genial team was Beryl Rasmus's team of Mary Hambly, Mary Ellen Sheridan and Wendy Gunning.

Bunny Scott and Phyllis Woodcock are the oldest women curlers in the club. They have both supported and worked very hard with the growth and changes over the years. This spiel was to honour their contributions over the years.

Wendy Gunning and the County Commercial Printers was the bonspiel sponsor. They provided a beautiful glass trophy and plaque in honour of two women. The spiel was organized with the committee of Sandra Anderson, Helen Baker, Brigitte Bassie, Luba Glachan, Wendy Gunning, Irene Houtby, Bev Martin, Cheryl Smillie, Mary Lou Waggett, Pat Wright-Thorpe, and Wendy Vermeersch. Both Bunny and Phyllis had family members and friends come to support and curl with them during the day.

Many thanks go to all the donators of the raffle prizes and our ice maker John Watson.

Elimination Draw Fundraiser

All 105 tickets were sold for the Elimination draw held at the curling club on Sunday Nov 30th. This was the major fundrais-

ing effort orchestrated by Bob MacNaull for the curling season 2008 and 2009. President Bruce Martin welcomed the group of approximately 100 interested ticket holders for the afternoon draws.

The official validation was done by Gary Bradshaw and Patrick Mitchell. The two draw masters were Mike Jaycock and Chester Howse. The numbered board was attended to by Wendy Vermeersch keeping track of the order that the tickets were drawn. Five two hundred dollar prizes were awarded to Andy Glecoff,



Phyllis Woodcock, Gord Grant, Shirley Howse and Louis Simon. Many tickets in the draw were purchased with other people so the names here are the principle name for the ticket.

The last six tickets were drawn by Reeve Murray Fearrey. The grand prize of \$10,000.00 was split between Joë Iles, Grenville Griffin and Scotty Morrison. All ticket holders who did not win

had a second chance at \$200.00 and this was won by the Martin girls. This was an excellent event which some curlers would like to see as an annual fundraiser for the club. ■



From left to right: Reeve Murray Fearrey, Grand prize winners, Joë Iles, Scotty Morrison, and Grenville Griffin

Mmm Mmm Milk

Eat Smart Committee Wants Students

Mark Arike

Staff Reporter

Milk products provide 15 essential nutrients for normal growth and for maintaining a healthier life. Many statistics show that most Canadians do not consume the recommended two to four servings of milk per day and alternative milk products.

To raise awareness of the importance of milk and encourage a healthy school environment, the Haliburton Highlands Secondary School (HHSS) has its own "Eat Smart" committee made up of students, teachers, parents, the principal and the cafeteria food service company Aramark.

Last Thursday, student members of the committee (sporting green Eat Smart shirts) were in the high school foyer to provide the student body with the cold, hard facts about milk. By filling out a milk survey, students also had a shot at winning some prizes.

Student committee members Claire Flatman and Karl Kadwell made the informative displays that were in the foyer. The two have also developed resource packages for school coaches that urge them to drink milk instead of pop, sugar-laced fruit flavoured drinks or sport drinks to enhance athletic performance. Students will also be given milk cards which will be stamped each time they buy a milk product in the cafeteria. Once they've collected five stamps, they are eligible to win a prize.

"It's about students educating students," said Rosie Kadwell, Public Health Dietician with the Haliburton Kawartha Pine-Ridge District Health Unit (HKPR). "The committee looks at the entire school environment and the benefits of healthier food choices."

This past year, a milk vending machine was installed by the entrance to the cafeteria in the school.

To take a look at the nutritional facts about milk visit www.rechargewithmilk.ca. ■



Student committee members Karl Kadwell and Claire Flatman



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Minden River Kings Win on the Road

Brooks Robinson now 2-0 as Hard Shells new knock

Newly installed River King boss Brooks Robinson is just into the second week of his recent appointment as head coach, and really, even midst the turmoil and tumult of recent events - like the resignation of former coach Mike Jeschke and some recent key player acquisitions that come on the heels of a blockbuster trade with Elliot Lake - there are some shimmers and slivers of light at tunnel's end.

And with that, some good news for the Hard Shell faithful.

Last Saturday night for instance, the Kings took their show on the road and played some solid hockey on their way to a 5-3 win over the Espanola Kings.

That win pushes Robinson's record to a perfect 2-0. The Kings went into the game with a new starting goaltender and missing the services of their leading scorer Brett Meyers.

Meyers, the Minnesota Maestro, took some time off last week to visit the family in the American Midwest to celebrate the American Thanksgiving. Meyers will be returning early this week. He will be joining a team in flux.

Newly installed starting netminder Andrew Selbie has taken over as starting backstop, replacing the departed Rob Sutherland who along with forward David Igarashi have left for the hinterland as part of a deal that started earlier last month when the Bobcats sent Mike Dagostino to the Hard Shells for future considerations.

Dagostino is now joined by former Elliot Lake teammates Zach Archer, Cameron Walsh and Jeff Beall who are joining the Kings as part of the six player chartbusting swap.

The four-for-two deal shores up some holes in the Kings line up and serves notice that management is committed to improving the Kings manpower shortage.

Robinson is happy about the way things are going right now. "It was a pretty tough and a long road trip last weekend but the guys came out ready to play and we had a good game," said Robinson.

He added that only two of the players, Archer and Walsh played last weekend, adding that Beall should be joining the team this week. The Kings have a home game against Richmond Hill's Ontario Lightening Rams on Sunday night at the SG Nesbitt Barn. Game time is 6 pm and Robinson said that the Kings may also have a few more bodies in place before that game.

"Dan (River King GM Dan Gameau) is working on getting us a third goaltender and we also have some other players coming," said Robinson. He added that the plan is to have a full complement of skaters on hand by at least mid-December.

The loss of the stellar Sutherland looms as the largest pop for the Kings, but Robinson has a lot of faith in Selbie, who, when all is said and done, has been playing and winning with regularity of late. Selbie is backed up by Robert Randles, but Robinson said that Gameau hopes to have a third goaltender in place by December 10. And it takes some big fish to move bodies in the pond, thus the departure of Igarashi and Sutherland is seen as a good thing as it adds some talented and much needed skaters to the mix.

Also, Robinson said that all of the players have been stepping up and added that in the end, the addition of bodies to the roster will serve to bolster fortunes as the season wears on.

"It's nice to have skaters ... it helps in practice and it will also help to have bodies on board in case of injury," said Robinson.

Goals by team captain Toby Kathan, Calvin Northam, Briar Hill and Tyler Crego helped power the Kings past Espanola last Saturday.

"We'll have Meyers back for the game on Sunday and we're really looking forward to that game," said Robinson.

As for the 2-0 start in his new position as head knock? Well, Robinson is taking that with a grain of salt. "Well, of course, that works for me, but right now we're concentrating on getting better," said Robinson.

Right now Robinson has a few balls in the air. He's handling the pressure of a full time job along with a full practice schedule, which for the moment have to be conducted in the evening hours. Robinson said that should change shortly when his seasonal duties as an inspector wind down for the winter months. He said that when the seasonal layoff comes, either this week or next, it will give him some free time to pursue a more rigorous practice schedule.

But at the same time he is also asking for a little input from the community.

"We're looking for billets for some of the players that will be coming into town over the next few weeks, so we're hoping that some people in the community might be interested in billet-

ing some of the new kids," said Robinson.

In addition, Robinson said that he is also looking for a person to help with some of the coaching chores, someone who feel confident enough to step in as an assistant coach for the remainder of the season. "It's pretty hard to run a practice with just one guy, so I'm definitely looking for some help," said Robinson.

Anyone with coaching experience who might be interested in stepping into an assistant role, and any families interested in providing billets may contact the Minden River Kings at (705) 286-1936.

The Kings play Richmond Hill Sunday at SG Nesbitt. Game time is 6 pm. ■

Sports Box

Dec 3 to Dec 11

High School

**MONDAY
DECEMBER 8**
Boys Hockey vs St
Peters SS
Game Time 7:15 PM
Dysart Arena

Sr and Jr Boys Basket-
ball @ Home
Versus Lakefield - Game
Time 3 pm

**TUESDAY,
DECEMBER 9**
Junior Girls Volleyball
@ IE Weldon
Game Time 1 pm

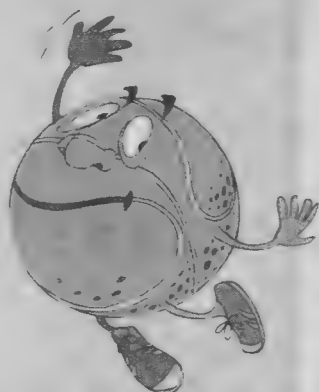
**WEDNESDAY,
DECEMBER 10**
Senior Girls Volleyball
@Home
Game Time 1 pm

Junior and Senior Boys
Basketball
At St Thomas Aquinas -
Time 3 pm

**THURSDAY,
DECEMBER 11**
Boys Hockey @ Os-
hawa Tournament

**FRIDAY,
DECEMBER 12**
Boys Hockey @ Os-
hawa Tournament

**RIVER KINGS HOCKEY
SUNDAY
DECEMBER 24**
Home Game versus
Richmond Hill
SG Nesbitt Arena -
Game Time 6 pm



OPP Launches MONTH-LONG Festive RIDE Campaign



The OPP began its annual Festive Reduce Impaired Driving Everywhere (RIDE) campaign at 12:01 a.m. last Friday. The province-wide campaign continues until January 2, 2009.

With the holiday season fast approaching, the Ontario Pro-

vincial Police reminds motorists of the danger of mixing alcohol or drugs with driving.

"Impaired driving continues to be the leading criminal cause of death in Canada," Commissioner Julian Fantino said. "OPP officers will be out on the highways during the campaign conducting spot checks in an effort to remove the threat of the impaired driver, and make the roads in Ontario safe."

"Our government contributes annually to the RIDE campaign because it's the right thing to do," said Minister of Community Safety and Correctional Services Rick Bartolucci. "We are steadfast in our determination to ensure our police partners have the resources needed to keep our roads safe, particularly during the festive season, so that a night of holiday fun does not turn into a night of tragedy."

Last year during the five-week OPP RIDE initiative, officers stopped 861,587 vehicles at roadside checkpoints. As a result, 342 persons were charged with Criminal Code alcohol-related offences and issued 869 12-hour suspensions. In addition, officers issued 375 90-day Administrative Drivers Licence Suspensions. The Haliburton Highlands Detachment stopped 5658 vehicles, issued eight 12 hour suspensions, three 90 day administrative drivers licence suspensions and charged 2 people with alcohol related criminal code driving offences.

"Ontario roads are among the safest in North America," Chief Superintendent Bill Grodzinski, Commander of the OPP's Highway Safety Division said, "but we are working hard every day to make them even safer. The RIDE program has proved to be an effective deterrent and important tool to educate the driving public about the dangers of impaired driving."

"The tragic loss of life as a result of an irresponsible person drinking and then getting behind the wheel of a vehicle and driving must stop," Fantino said. "OPP officers will be out there doing their part to remove impaired drivers from our roadways, so please do your part by not drinking and driving."

Officers will also be on the lookout for aggressive drivers, those speeding, people not using seatbelts and those who fail to slow down or move over when passing an emergency vehicle stopped on the side of the road with its emergency lights activated. ■

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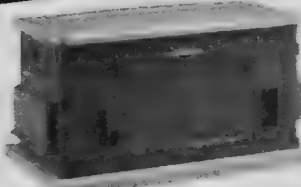
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MEAC Goes to the Birds

MEAC stretched its definition of "pet" last week and accepted delivery of a tiny, feathered client. Injured and unable to fly, he was discovered under a cedar bush near the Rail's End Gallery in Haliburton and delivered to Minden Emergency Animal Care by a concerned animal lover.

Before being taped to the x-ray table for diagnosis, anesthetic was administered through a mask that normally covers the snout of most patients, but in this case mimicked a tent. Between procedures, MEAC's latest addition was kept warm while tucked inside the scrubs of the medical staff at Minden Animal Hospital. Drs. Carol Sanio and Jill Zigomanas then proceeded to fashion a tiny splint for his broken wing before bandaging his wound. Minuscule drops of antibiotics were administered to protect against infection.

Despite his injury, this feisty wee guy soon let people know what he thought of the splint and immediately set out to remove it by methodically pecking and pulling at it with his beak. A miniature Elizabethan collar was designed and constructed from a piece of X-ray film to ensure the bandaged splint would be out of reach. More tiny drops of antibiotics were administered.

Based on photos, ornithologists at "Bird Studies Canada" confirmed that the patient was a Pine Siskin, and Janice Enright director of "A Wing and a Prayer", Muskoka's bird rehabilitation center, has offered suggestions on care and feeding. Once healthy, the tiny Siskin will be transported to "A Wing and a Prayer" where he will be gradually reintroduced to his natural environment.

If you would like to learn more about the work done by Minden Emergency Animal Care, or would like to help out, MEAC can be located at the following web site: <http://www.meac2007.com/>



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Lyn Winans




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The Minden Veterinarians fashioned a miniature Elizabethan collar out of a piece of x-ray film to ensure the bandage splint would be out of reach in an attempt to save this tiny Piny Siskin.

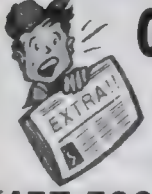


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Christmas Hours
Begin Saturday Dec 26th
M - SAT 10 - 6pm
25th - CLOSED
26th - CLOSED or by Appointment
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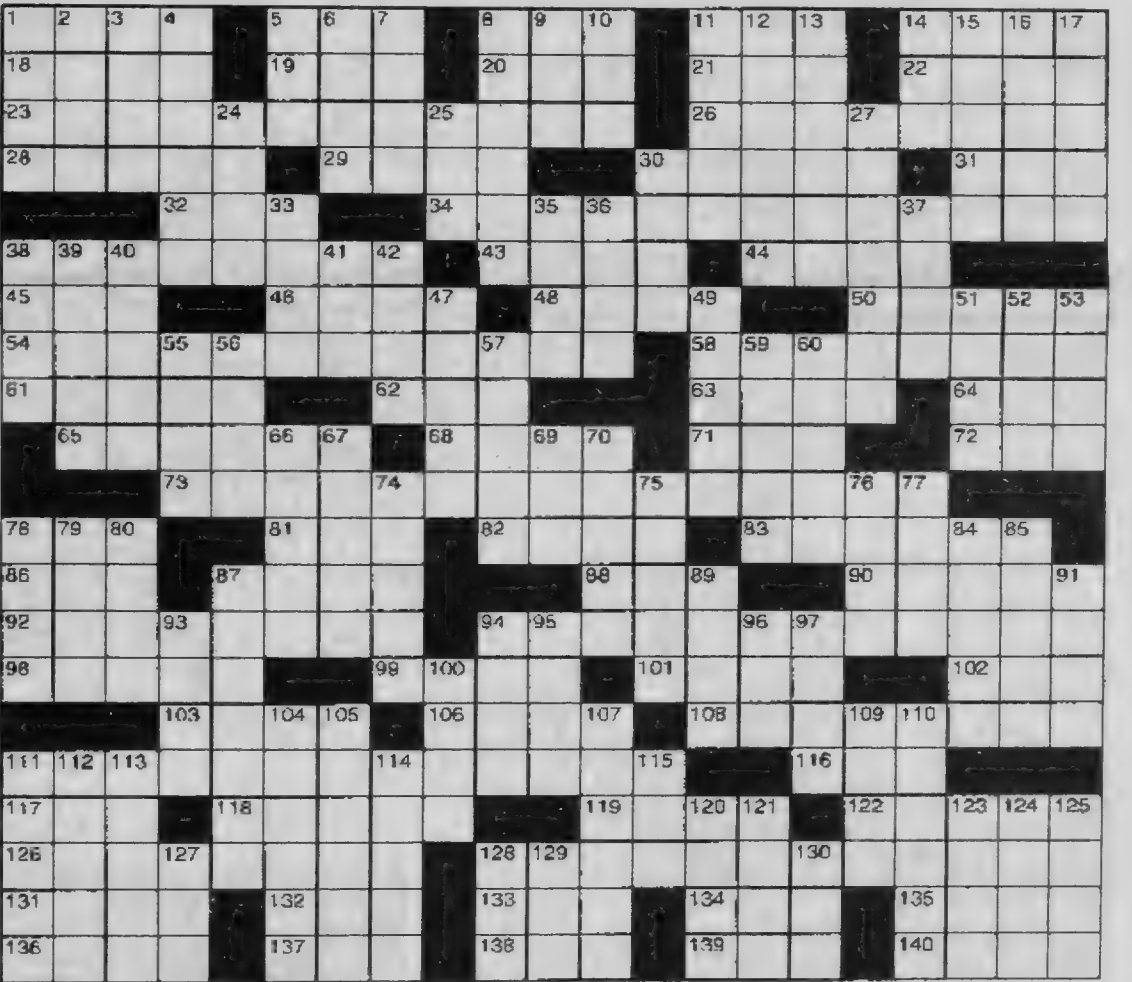
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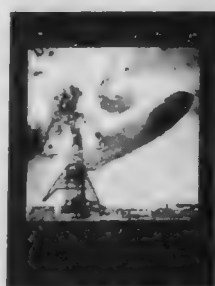
Haliburton 457-2640

Super Crossword

SOMETHING'S FISHY

- ACROSS**
- 1 Strike-breaker
5 Suffix with spat
8 Salon supply
11 Research site
14 Blind as —
16 Romeo
19 Word with pack or rug
20 Generation
21 Air-quality org.
22 Pedestal part
23 Fishy actress?
26 Dignified
28 "— Gay"
29 Jannings or Gilels
30 "— Man" ('78 song)
31 — kwon do
32 Quiche ingredient
34 Fishy outlaw?
38 Bucolic
43 James of "Brian's Song"
44 Jacob's twin
45 A mean Amin
46 "Nabucco" number
48 Neighbor of Niger
50 Alcove
54 Fishy film?
58 Future
- 61 Submarine finder
62 — Tse-tung
63 Lurid Lugosi
64 Chest protector
65 Funt apparatus
68 Supreme leader?
71 Parke part
72 Southern constellation
73 Fishy physician?
78 Use a phaser
81 Letter from Athens
82 "Mein —" ("Cabaret" tune)
83 O&W's Tubb
86 Seville shout
87 Whirl
88 Actor Tognazzi
90 Cairo creed
92 Collegiate sport
94 Fishy TV show?
98 Crooked
99 French couturier
101 Dashboard feature
102 Col.'s superior
103 Border on
106 Bucket
- 108 Photo writer?
111 Fishy
116 Squirrel's snack
117 Author LeShan
118 Bell town
119 Pinza or Chaliapin
122 School tool
126 Chunky pasta
128 Fishy novel?
131 Nixon or Johnson
132 "Foucault's Pendulum" author
133 Chicken — king
134 Cow's comment
135 Unusual
136 Common Market currency
137 DC figure
138 Palindromic dnanst
139 Woolly one
140 Part of Micronesia
- DOWN**
- 1 Close as can be
2 Family
3 "The Mod Squad" hairdo
4 "Petrouchka," for one
5 Decorative vase
6 Like some excuses
7 Mighty mite
8 Medicinal plant
9 Self-esteem
10 Singer Dickey
11 Paul of "American Graffiti"
12 Cochise or Geronimo
13 Washes
14 Fuss and feathers
15 Swahili, e.g.
16 Dwight's competition
17 Fiddled (with)
24 Desdemona's enemy
25 Loon lips
27 '82 Toto hit
30 Sociable starling
33 Alum
35 Shoestring
36 Bolger/Haley co-star
37 Throw in the towel
38 Prepares cherries
39 — committee
40 Tuscan town
41 Pound sound
42 Neeson or O'Flaherty
47 Video game company
49 Exclude
51 Arnaz's country
52 It grows on you
53 Napoleonic site
55 Sleep in the woods
56 Hurler Hersher
57 Booze
59 Brink
60 Glue guy
66 Runs around in circles?
67 Grate stuff
69 Vane dir.
70 Emulate Roy Clark
74 Like many bathrooms
75 Coaxed
76 "I'm working —"
77 Nuthatch's home
78 "Nana" author
79 "Oh, woe!"
80 Act like a chicken
84 Winter mess
85 Ballroom dance
87 Lake sight
89 Birdsong of basketball
91 Lauer or LeBlanc
93 Paper quantity
94 Actor Beery
95 Like a desert
96 Solo of "Star Wars"
97 King of comedy
100 — facto
104 Opens
105 Daze
107 Tripoli native
109 Knitting stitch
110 Little mouse?
111 Sock a shuttlecock
112 "Farewell!"
113 Light beer
114 Alliance
115 Put away a pickle
120 Any
121 Chilly powder?
123 inventive sort?
124 Neutral tone
125 Slink
127 Mil. address
128 Critic's god?
129 President Bush was one
130 "The Gold Bug" author





Moments in time

THE HISTORY CHANNEL

On Dec. 4, 1943, President Franklin Roosevelt closes the books on the Work Projects Administration (WPA), one of the government's most ambitious public-works programs. Fueled by \$11 billion of government money, the program created jobs for 8.5 million people during the Depression.

On Dec. 5, 1933, the 21st Amendment to the U.S. Constitution is ratified, bringing an end to the era of national prohibition of alcohol. Mississippi, the last dry state in the Union, ended Prohibition in 1966.

On Dec. 6, 1884, in Washington, D.C., workers place a 9-inch aluminum pyramid atop a 555-foot tower of white marble, completing construction of the Washington Monument. A city law passed in 1910 restricted the height of new buildings to ensure that the monument would remain the tallest structure in Washington, D.C.

On Dec. 7, 1982, the first execution by lethal injection takes place at the state penitentiary in Huntsville, Texas. Charles Brooks Jr., convicted of murdering an auto mechanic, received an intravenous injection of sodium pentothal, the barbiturate that is known as a "truth serum" when administered in lesser doses.

On Dec. 8, 1993, the North American Free Trade Agreement is signed into law by President Bill Clinton. NAFTA was heavily criticized by Reform Party presidential candidate Ross Perot, who argued that if NAFTA was passed, Americans would hear a "giant sucking sound" of American companies fleeing the United States for Mexico.



Haliburton County Council Change of Date Notice

The Council of the County of Haliburton wishes to provide PUBLIC NOTICE that a Special Closed Session Meeting of County Council has been scheduled to take place on Wednesday, December 10th, 2008 commencing at 9:00 a.m. Regular Committee meetings scheduled for December 10th have been cancelled.

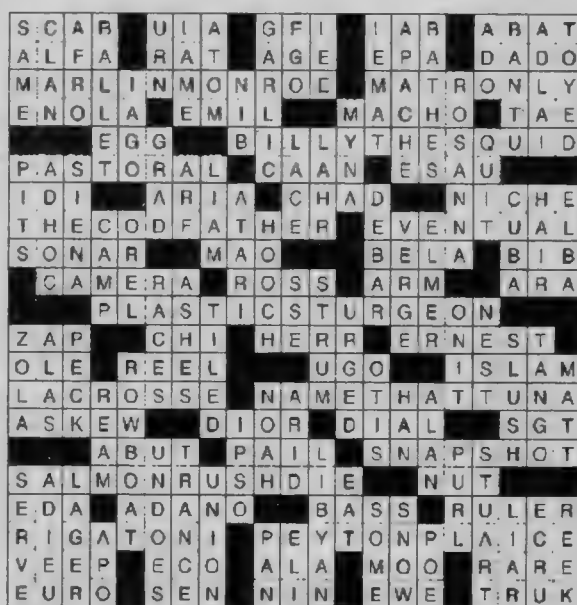
The Inaugural Session of Council will be held at 7:00 p.m. on December 16th, 2008 followed by the Regular Session of County Council on December 17th, 2008 at 9:00 a.m.

All meetings are held in the County Administration Building located at 11 Newcastle Street in Minden.

Tamara Wilbee, County Clerk
County of Haliburton

On Dec. 9, 1926, young clarinetist Benny Goodman records his first solo, 16 bars of a song called "He's the Last Word." Sadly, his father was hit by a car and killed on the same day Goodman recorded the solo.

On Dec. 10, 1963, Frank Sinatra Jr., who was kidnapped in Lake Tahoe, Calif., is allowed to talk briefly to his father. The kidnappers revealed the drop point for the ransom money and the location where Frank Jr. could be found. To avoid a public scene, law enforcement officials picked up the young Sinatra and brought him home in the trunk of their car.



The County of Haliburton is seeking Proposals for the Review of its Official Plan under the *Planning Act*.

A copy of the Request for Proposal is available for download on the County of Haliburton Website at www.haliburtoncounty.ca by following the links to County and Tenders.

Completed proposals to be submitted no later than January 7, 2009 at 2:00 p.m. local time to the attention of:

Jane Tousaw, Director of Planning
County of Haliburton
11 Newcastle Street
PO Box 399
Minden, ON K0M 2K0

In Memory

Quibell

In Loving Memory of My Dear Husband
John, who passed away November 25, 2005

We took our vows together
And said "Till death do us part"
So when God came and took your hand
My whole world fell apart.
No one knows the heartache
I try so hard to hide.
No one knows how many times
I've broken down and cried
When I look back upon our lives
Just one thing makes me glad
That you chose me to share with you
Those precious years we had
I know you walk beside me
And when my life is through
I pray that God will take my hand
And lead me straight to you

Forever in my heart, Your wife Barb.

For week of December 8

Horoscopes

It's in the Stars

BORN THIS WEEK: Your warmth, your humor and your genuine concern for others make you someone people love to keep close to their lives.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19) Your Arian penchant for impatience shows, as you consider passing a problem-prone project on to someone else. Best advice: Stay with it and work out those snarls yourself.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20) Even patient Bovines can be frustrated when carefully made plans go awry. But crank up that "stick-to-it-ivity" you do so well, and you'll soon find that your schedule is back in sync.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20) Your aspect favors using more resourceful means in dealing with a workplace situation. Some discreet checking around could help shed light on the root cause of the problem.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22) You show an unusually strong streak of stubbornness in rejecting suggestions from friends and/or family members early in the week. But you become more receptive by the week's end.

LEO (July 23 to August 22) The Big Cat might find a gentler approach more effective when dealing with those who resist needed changes. Remember, the word "persuasion" starts with the sound "purr."

VIRGO (August 23 to September 22) A disappointing experience with someone you felt you could trust can be painful. But there just might be more to this situation than you're aware of. Press for an explanation.

LIBRA (September 23 to October 22) Changing your views about something you believe in isn't easy. But you might reconsider as the facts come in. Keep your mind open, even if you're uneasy about what you might learn.

SCORPIO (October 23 to November 21) You might have to do some serious shifting of gears to get your project back on track. But cheer up. Your hard work starts to produce some positive results by the week's end.

SAGITTARIUS (November 22 to December 21) An unsettling mood at the start of the week soon lifts and gives way to a more positive attitude as you find fun and friendship beginning to dominate your aspect.

CAPRICORN (December 22 to January 19) A delay in firming up holiday plans could work to your advantage. Use this time to scout out possibilities that might be more in line with what those close to you would prefer.

AQUARIUS (January 20 to February 18) Some people might question some of the new friends you've welcomed into your life. But your ability to see beyond the obvious helps you recognize how special they are.

PISCES (February 19 to March 20) Financial matters can be especially tricky this week. It's best to follow a conservative investment path for now, and wait for a more fortuitous time to take a bolder approach.

ISAAC ASIMOV'S SUPER QUIZ

Take this Isaac Asimov's Super Quiz to a Ph.D. Score 1 point for each correct answer on the Freshman Level, 2 points on the Graduate Level and 3 points on the Ph.D. Level.

Subject: OCCUPATIONS

Provide the occupation or field of work for which the person is best known. (e.g., Florence Nightingale. Answer: Nurse.)

FRESHMAN LEVEL

1. Bjorn Borg
Answer _____
2. Sir Arthur Conan Doyle
Answer _____
3. Harry Houdini
Answer _____

GRADUATE LEVEL

4. Naom Campbell
Answer _____
5. Emily Dickinson
Answer _____
6. Jimi Hendrix
Answer _____

PH.D. LEVEL

7. Ratan Tata
Answer _____
8. Mary Quant
Answer _____
9. Friedrich Nietzsche
Answer _____

ANSWERS: 1. Tennis player. 2. Author. 3. Magician (escape artist). 4. Model. 5. Poet. 6. Guitarist (singer, songwriter). 7. Businessman (India). 8. Fashion designer. 9. Philosopher.

SCORING:

18 points — congratulations, doctor; 15 to 17 points — honors graduate; 10 to 14 points — you're plenty smart, but no grind; 4 to 9 points — you really should hit the books harder; 1 point to 3 points — enroll in remedial courses immediately; 0 points — who reads the questions to you?

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COMMERCIAL SPACE FOR RENT. 2 Units Available. Unit #1- 1500 sq. ft. 152 Highland Street (corner of Highland & Cedar) - this unit available immediately. Unit #2- 1500 sq. ft. 162 Highland Street (adjacent to Kosy Korner) - this unit available Nov. 1st. (705) 457-5143 fax or (705) 457-9167 phone or by email: measton3@sympatico.ca tfn

For Rent

FORRENT - Fully furnished, two bedroom luxury apartment, 2 mins from Haliburton. Full kitchen, new LG appliances, two bath, on Lake Kashagawigamog. Big view, beach, large deck. No smoking, no pets, 2 references. \$1200 all inclusive heat, hydro, sat. First and last. Available Dec 15, 2008. Call Ted 457-5247 november d 08

FOR RENT Room for Rent - In town B&B has furnished room with cable tv, wireless internet. \$380 a month. Student or fully employed. 455-9164. november d 08

FOR RENT - 1 bedroom, self contained, well maintained apartment in Maple Lake area, Hwy 118. Main level, private deck, heat & hydro included. No pets/smoking. References. \$625/mth. Suits single/mature person (705) 754-9732 or (905) 833-1127 november d 08

FOR RENT - Charming 3 bdrm home in Haliburton Village, partially furnished, with carport & lg yard. Non smokers only. \$1400/month incl. utilities. Call for 455-9376 applications. november d 08

FOR RENT - In Haliburton, 3 bdrm 1 bathroom with large yard & single garage; within walking distance of village amenities., \$975 per month plus utilities. Non-smokers only, no pets. First and last, references required. Call Nathan at 457-2754 November d 08

For Sale

ARTICLES FOR SALE Vacuum cleaner \$50.00 - Old phone (wood mount) black - Water pump for deep or shallow well \$50 - 9'6" insulated chimney 8" cap, UL approved. \$300.00 Call 457-1006 november d 08

FOR SALE - WOODSPLITTER 3 PH mount \$750.00 o.b.o. call 705-457-3655 november d 08

FOR SALE - 4 NEW NORDIC SNOWTIRES on rims. 175/65/R14 Asking \$250 o.b.o. fits Ford Escort. Also available 3 All Season Radial Good Year tires. Allegra. 175/65/R14 80% tread. \$100 o.b.o. Call 286-2973 november d 08

FOR SALE - SNOW TIRES 4 Winter Tires for sale. Hercules Polar Trax 195/60/R14 and steel rims. 4 bolt pattern. Used one season. \$400 Call 286-4184 november d 08

For Sale

FOR SALE - NEW COMPLETE SEPTIC SYSTEMS. 30 Years of experience in Minden and Haliburton area. We take care of all paperwork and permits. Fully licenced, health unit inspected. Call for a free estimate, Brent Colman Trucking and Escavating at 705-286-3952 or 1-800-357-8711 tfn

HOUSE FOR SALE - HALIBURTON AREA 2 bedroom house in Haliburton. Drilled well, walk to stores, overlooks lake. \$85,000 o.b.o. Call (705) 488-2382 november d 08

FOR SALE - 1999 SKIDOO GT - Two up, serviced, ready to go, reverse, hand warmers, electric start. Excellent shape \$2350.00. Call: 457-9322

FOR SALE - 1993 POLARIS ATV 4wd, winch, snowplow, one owner, low mileage \$2000.00 call 457-3655

FOR SALE - 1999 DODGE CARAVAN ES - Certified, all power, 3.8L. Comes with summer and winter tires and rims. \$3500 obo 754-1698 november d 08

FOR SALE - 2005 POLARIS CLASSIC - New in 2006. Loaded incl. reverse. Only 1400 kms. Wife's machine. Paid \$7600.00. Will sell for \$5200.00 Mint condition. See it/Buy it! Call 447-9900 november d 08

Wanted

ARTICLES WANTED - Old or antique used furniture, one piece or whole estates bought plus clean-up of everything also cars, trucks, boats trailers if the price is right I will make you a deal on anything call Richard in Tory Hill at 448-3920. Clean up of scrap cars or metal as well. tfn

LOST - 11 year old, male Beagle. If found please call Paul at 286-6492

Services

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ODD JOB JACK-YOUR LOCAL HANDYMAN 448-9965 For any and all odd jobs. What can we do for you? Email oddjobjack@yahoo.ca tfn

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Congratulations

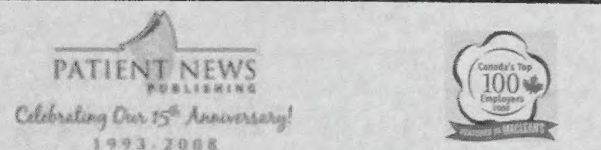
CONGRATULATIONS - Haliburton Home Hardware would like to congratulate Helen Williams who won the inflatable SpongeBob SquarePants. november d 08

For Rent

ROOMS/APARTMENT FOR RENT in a LAKESIDE HOUSE

3 rooms with different sizes share a washroom with shower. Rent accordingly \$250, \$285 and \$380/month. Also available: 1 bedroom lake view apartment with private dbl. whirlpool bath for \$640/m. All share a spacious eat-in-kitchen and laundry room. This house is newly renovated with new appliances incl. dishwasher. Highly energy efficient and only 3 km from College and Haliburton Village. Rent includes utilities and wireless internet. A great place designed and furnished with students in mind. During July & August rented by the week only! For further information email jurgendiet@hotmail.com

Help Wanted



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Join our energetic, proficient, and talented design team. We are looking for candidates with a diploma in graphic design and a minimum of two years design experience. Attention to detail, creative flair, multi-tasking, and problem solving are required skills. Experience with PhotoShop, Illustrator, InDesign and colour correction preferred.

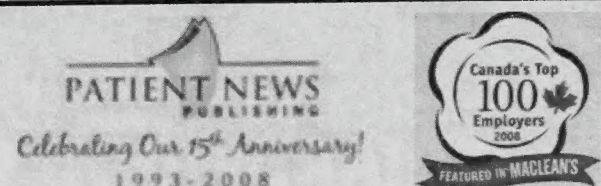
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Messiah Unfolds at St George's Anglican Church

Terrance Gavan

Staff Reporter

"And the angel said unto them, fear not: for behold I bring you tidings of great joy." Luke's words, from gospel, incorporate the wonder that is Christmas. Sung as a recitative for soprano in Handel's marvelously meticulous Messiah, Luke's refrain comes replete with the power, the energy and the pump to deliver solace to even the most burdened of souls.

Messiah is above all else a paean to salvation, reclamation and joy.

And so, in this age of economic uncertainty, when recession rests like a wolf at the door, it's perhaps nice to sit back, relax and take soothing succor in words and music first penned way back in 1741. Back before we had to worry about how much it's costing to repatriate our F150 at the local gas menagerie. Back when lives weren't quite so complicated by recession, credit issues and the bottom line. Back when Christmas was not inextricably tied to a Future Shop gee-gaw or a trip to Toys R' Us.

Sometimes it's nice to retreat to roots, to the music that offers hope and remonstrates against the stresses of our daily bump and grind. Last weekend a number of Haliburton area residents took some time to revisit safe harbor and calming seas. An SRO crowd flocked to St. George's Anglican Church last Sunday afternoon for a beautifully structured offering of Handel's Messiah. (The oratorio was offered in Minden on Saturday evening as well.)

The Highlands Festival Singers presented a wonderful afternoon of music and singing at St. George's under the direction and nurturing hand of conductor Melissa Stephens. Melissa has performed annually at Haliburton's Summer Festival and now helps to administer and accompany the Highlands Opera Studio, along with co-artistic directors Richard Margison and his wife Val Kuinika.

Indeed, the Messiah performance last Sunday was backed by a strong cast of soloists, most of whom have demonstrated their bona fides this past summer in performances at the aforementioned summer opera workshop. They were anchored on stage by the prepossessing talents of organist Bev Foster, a former executive director of the Ontario Vocal Festival and accompanist for the Orpheus Choir of Toronto.

Tenor Adam Bishop, Baritone Vasil Garvanliev. Mezzo Soprano Wallis Giunta and Soprano



Soprano Taylor Strande



Tenor Adam Bishop

Highlands Festival Singers fill the halls with Handel's famous Oratorio



Mezzo Soprano Wallis Giunta

George Frideric Handel's Messiah encountered controversy when it first hit the stage in Dublin. There were disapproving members of the gentry who railed that Handel had "plundered" the Bible and presented it as a play for public enjoyment.

Thankfully we aren't embroiled in the pedantic and dogmatic foibles of such petty debate and wet-noodling today. We can all, should we choose, go and enjoy this beautiful piece of work for its clarity, its message and its inherent and intrinsic splendor. Like we did last Sunday in Haliburton.

Or we can go to immerse in the calming wash of the seas. To forget for a moment the tug of the drooping economy, or, perhaps the seasonal urge to traipse and trip a shopping mall.

To take time to enjoy simply as William Congreve must have done before penning those fateful lines.

"Music hath charms to soothe a savage breast; To soften rocks, or bend a knotted oak." ■

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\$229,000.00 Kennisis Lk(Paddy's Bay) 175 ft frontage, beautiful sand beach, natural shore line, nature lovers retreat. 3.2 acres, level lot, driveway on property. Very easy to build on this lot saving you lots of \$\$\$\$\$.	\$549,000.00 Check out this spectacular building lot on the West Shore of Kennisis Lake. 298 ft of frontage on 3.5 acres of well treed land. This lot is fairly level with many building sites to choose from. Great open big lake view. Enjoy the sun all day with the south easterly view. Driveway installed. Hydro and Bell at lot line also high speed available.	\$579,000.00 Kennisis Lake - Wow! Large sand beach w/ deeper water off the dock. Big lake view. Very private. Total living space includes 3 bedrooms, 2 baths, large open concept living/dining & kitchen. Sun room - glass across the front looking onto a large deck. Walk out lower level includes family room, 2 bedrooms, laundry and utilities. Bunkie/storage shed also inc.

What a Christmas Gift !!!

Have Your Say... VOX POP

In an effort to continue to promote shopping locally, we asked business owners and employees in Haliburton, "What can you offer shoppers this Christmas? Why should people come to your store instead of travelling elsewhere?"



Don vanNood, Owner, The Source By Circuit City - "We've got a wide variety of products including everything for your audio and visual needs, satellite radios, musical instrument accessories and computer and video game equipment. We have specials going on right now that are advertised in our flyers."



Karen Burnett, Owner Northern Expressions - "We have some unique gift items, many of which you wouldn't find in the average store. Our big thing now is our Natura pillows and comforters. Some of the other items we carry include: soy and beeswax candles, salt rocks, unique art glass lanterns, lamps that would add flare to any room and some Christmas themed products. There are also a select number of items that are on special."



Kim Pockett, employee, Country Rose Florist Gift Garden Centre - "We have real Christmas trees and they are absolutely beautiful. The Fraser Fir tree will hold its needles, they won't drop. We have short trees for those with limited space and 10-foot trees for bigger spaces. Families can come and pick out their perfect tree. We also have poinsettias, swags and locally made wreaths. We have a red bull's-eye sale on where you can get up to 50 per cent off on certain items. You can also have flowers delivered to friends and family worldwide."



Ron Hall, General Merchandise Manager, Todd's Independent Grocer - "We have fresh Christmas trees, artificial trees, all your holiday appliances, lights, decor, festive Christmas products for all your entertaining needs and confectionaries. Right now, we're celebrating the 25th PC Insider's anniversary, so our must try items are PC chocolate and eggnog. On December 9 we'll have the Batman film The Dark Knight in and we'll soon have a major book that's being released."

Earthweek: A Diary of the Planet

By Steve Newman



21st-Century Plague?

Some brown rats, the most common species in Europe, may now be helping to spread a new strain of flea-borne bacteria that can cause heart disease and other serious illness in humans, according to a new study. The new strain, called *Bartonella rochalimae*, was discovered in an American woman with an enlarged spleen who had recently traveled to Peru. Professor Chao-Chin Chang, from the National Chung Hsing University in Taiwan, wrote in the *Journal of Medical Microbiology* that the infection may be one of the first documented cases of an emerging zoonotic pathogen. A zoonosis is any infectious disease capable of being transmitted from other animals to humans, or vice-versa. Rodents have been responsible for spreading the Black Death and other plagues in Europe and parts of Asia since the Middle Ages. Professor Chang says his findings raise concerns about the existence of a 21st-century plague.

Primate Truce

Hundreds of park rangers will be allowed to return to one of the last refuges for Africa's mountain gorilla population in a rare example of cooperation between the government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo and rebel insurgents in the east of the country. The deal was worked out by Virunga National Park director Emmanuel De Merode and rebel leader Laurent Nkunda. Virunga is home to almost a third of the last remaining 700 wild mountain gorillas, and had to be abandoned by all park personnel when Nkunda's forces stormed through the primates' habitat last month. The returning park rangers will initially conduct a new census of the apes, under the watchful eyes of rebel leaders.

Prairie Fireball

A meteor believed to have weighed 10 tons before entering Earth's atmosphere illuminated the skies of the Canadian Prairies and caused resounding booms, both seen and heard for hundreds of miles on the evening of Nov. 20. The fireball streaked above Alberta and western Saskatchewan, fragmenting in a series of explosions that lasted for several seconds. The event was captured on many security cameras and other recording devices, which showed the meteor appearing larger and brighter as it approached the ground. "It would have been something like a billion-watt lightbulb," said University of Calgary planetary scientist Alan Hildebrand. Analysis of images and visual sightings of the meteor's track indicates at least a portion of the debris from the fireball fell in an area of farmland within Saskatchewan's Manitou Lake rural municipality.

Volcanic Fatalities

An eruption of a snow-capped Colombian volcano unleashed landslides and flash flooding that killed at least 10 indigenous people. Searing gas and ash rapidly melted the summit of Nevado del Huila on the night of Nov. 20, sending a flow of volcanic material cascading down the mountain's slopes. Authorities said the surge of water and debris also trapped 150 people in a downstream canyon of the Paez River. Roads were blocked by the turbulent flow, which also destroyed bridges and about 20 homes. The volcano roared to life again in 2007 after lying dormant for more than 500 years. The latest eruption formed a crater approximately 1,300 feet in diameter in a region where the borders of Huila, Tolima and Cauca provinces merge.

Cyclone Season

Cyclone Anika briefly attained storm force before weakening to a tropical low and bringing rainfall to northwestern Australia. Cyclone Nisha drenched Sri Lanka and southern India.

Earthquakes

One of the year's strongest quakes was felt over 1,000 miles from its epicenter off Russia's Kamchatka Peninsula. The 7.3 magnitude quake caused no reported damage, but was felt in Hokkaido and other northern parts of Japan. Earth movements were also felt in China's Hubei province, central Sumatra and central Japan.

Electrifying Memorial

Some graves of the dearly departed near Barcelona, Spain, are literally empowering a small town through solar panels mounted on the tops of mausoleums. The monuments were built in one of the few flat and sunny areas around Santa Coloma de Gramenet. A network of 462 photovoltaic panels generates 125,000 kilowatt hours, the equivalent of the yearly electricity needs of 60 homes, according to Conste-Live Energy, a Spanish company that runs the cemetery and also markets the renewable energy. It says the panels were erected at a low angle to be as unobtrusive as possible. The project was initially a tough sell to those who thought it would be disrespectful to the deceased. But city council member Antoni Fogue says painstaking care was taken to make sure the installation "is compatible with respect for the deceased and their families."

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John Hincks 286-2138

Lochlin Area Home \$250,000



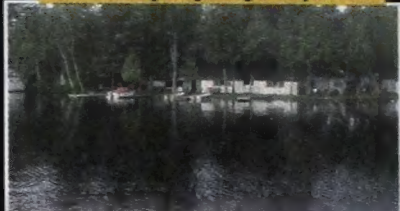
Air conditioned 3 BR with main floor master, 2 baths, rec room on 3+ acre lot. Flat lot, beautifully treed, attached garage, small pond. 10 min to town.
Dagmar Boettcher - 286-2138

Ski Chalet \$449,000



Stunning new 3 BR, 3 Bath chalet at Sir Sam's Ski Hill. Full finished bsmt & w/o. Top end finishings. Large wrap around decks on 2 levels. View of Eagle Lake.
Andrew Hodgson - 286-2128

Kashagawigamog \$550,000



Resort or Family Compound located on Haliburton's most popular 5 lake chain. Sunset views, 5 cabins plus residence, level lot, easy year round access
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Home on 1 Acre \$127,900



Cute 2 bedroom home near Carnarvon with many recent upgrades. Close to snowmobile trail and public access to Kushog Lake
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5 BR, 5 bath 4000 sq. ft. cedar home. Former B&B, Triple garage. Studio & wkshp. Docking on Kashag. chain. Open concept, hardwood flrs. stone FP.
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3 Separate Parcels!



Magnificent views of Haliburton Lake! Driveways are already installed. 60 Acres at \$109,900; 124 acres at \$129,900; or 238 acres at \$339,000!
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Haliburton By The Lake \$388,500



Custom built 5 BR, 3235 sqft. Vault ceilings, hardwood floors, full unfinished bsmt, 5pc ensuite, MF laundry room, large deck & much more.
Wilf VanLieshout - 457-2128

Paradise Lake \$309,000



3 bedroom, 2 bath home, perfect for families or retirement, level lot, south exp, produces great rental income for investment purposes
Greg Stamp 457-2128

Industrial Mall \$596,500



Excellent Highway 35 Location, 8800 square feet of shop, storage and office space. Set up your business and lease space to compatible contracting specialists.
Tom Ecclestone 286-2138

Chalet +5 Acres \$239,000



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Janice Brookes 457-2128

Private Setting \$199,900



3+ BR & 2+ bath bungalow with finished rec. room & walkout. Lots of decking & screened in sun room, on 2+ acres. Close to Sir Sams & swimming area.
Drew Bishop 457-2128

Cute as a Button \$245,000



Vintage 3 BR cottage, 720 sq ft, airtight woodstove on flat lot with flat rock and sand beach. municipal road. Quiet dead end bay.
Lee Gauthier 489-9968

Wonderful Privacy \$299,900



Great 3 BR cottage with pine floors throughout, cathedral ceiling, woodstove on a beautiful well treed private property. West exp. on a quiet no motor lake.
Mark Dennys 457-2128

2-Lake Chain \$339,900



Great 4-season cottage on Miskwabi Lake. Full-length lake view, 103' clean shoreline with deep water, w/o bsmt, furnace, winter water system. Yr. rnd mun. road
Susanne James & Andy Mosher 457-2128

Minden Lake \$364,900



3 BR home/cottage with 167' of waterfront on picturesque Minden Lake. Quiet neighbourhood, great swimming, fishing & near White Water Reserve.
Paul Szpik - 457-2128

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5 lake chain, level lot, big lake view, W. exp, stunning cottage/home, 3 BR, 3 baths, fireplace, gorgeous kitchen, full bsmt & 3 car garage!
Derrell and Kim Stamp 457-2128

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More than 3.5 acres, 414 ft of road frontage, over 200 ft of great clean shoreline. Boat on the 2 lake chain. Enjoy Sir Sam's in the winter!
Wilf VanLieshout - 457-2128

Trooper Lake! \$279,000



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Greg Stamp 457-2128

21 Acres \$249,900



Large 3 BR family home, lge LR, 2 stone FP and w/o basement. Features 4 stall horse barn, paddock & large workshop & nice pond
Tom Wilkinson 286-2138

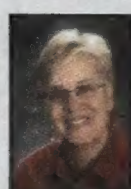
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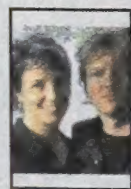
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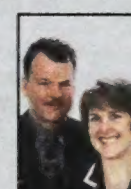
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